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THE INSIDE STORY

Guest Column by Theo Blomquist



Jorge Semprun's *AUTOBIOGRAFIA DE FEDERICO SANCHEZ* chronicles his life in the Spanish Communist party.

Spanish scenarist castigates his former comrades

While the newly legalized Spanish Communist party (PCE) was straining to part with the hazy complications of the past, one of its former heroes devoted a book to doing precisely the opposite. Understandably, party leaders were not amused. A PCE parliamentary deputy, Fernando Soto, called the book "a load of garbage dumped on the highest peaks of human dignity."

Jorge Semprun, the author of *Autobiografia de Federico Sanchez*, has called himself "a French writer of Spanish origin." He is best known to the world as scenarist for Costa Gavras' *Z* and *The Confession*, Alain Resnais' *La Guerre est Finie*, and most recently, *Les Routes du Sud* for Joseph Losey. His novels *Le Grand Voyage* and *La Deuxieme Mort de Ramon Mercader* were awarded the prix Formentor and the prix Femina respectively. His father was a Spanish Republican ambassador and, in the wake of civil war defeat, he went on to fight with the French Resistance. Captured by the Gestapo in 1943, he finally landed in Buchenwald at age 20—and survived.

Under the *nom de guerre* of Federico Sanchez, Semprun served for a ten year period ending in 1962 as a key organizer of communist underground operations in Madrid, eventually being kicked upstairs into the PCE's politburo. In 1964, he and the PCE's most sophisticated theorist, Fernando Claudin, were expelled from the party. "Their crime," as English historian Paul Preston has put it, "was to have postulated the positions now associated with Santiago Carrillo."

Federico Sanchez expelled.

"One of the reasons Claudin and I were expelled from the PCE," Semprun told me, "was for having warned that the transition from dictatorship to democracy could well be made under the hegemony of the bourgeoisie. Whereas the thesis of Carrillo then was, as we say, 'gauchiste' in quotation marks—claiming that the transition would be a political revolution that would set up a regime *totally different*, even from the point of view of social structure."

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"We said no, it's not compulsory, it depends on circumstances, and we have not been proven wrong. On the contrary, today's transition only confirms and corroborates the thesis that we maintained in '64."

They questioned the socialist validity of the Soviet system and criticized Carrillo's authoritarian leadership. But to the party faithful, the Claudin/Semprun analysis reeked of "capitulationism," "fractionalism," "anti-Sovietism" and even "objectivism." Calling them two "bird brained intellectuals," La Pasionaria pronounced sentence in a castle of the Bohemian kings near Prague, and Federico Sanchez ceased to exist.

Shortly after, Jorge Semprun wrote, "We cannot reject the past, we can only deny it in the present." His point had to do with the maintenance of a Marxist vision in the world after Stalin, which he attempts to do in the *Autobiografia de Federico Sanchez*.

Semprun's memoirs are essential to a critical evaluation of Eurocommunism. They are a sizzling attack on what he came to see as the fundamentally religious "Esprit-de-Parti," imposed by a theoretically bankrupt leadership to destroy any spirit of criticism.

"Carrillo confuses Marxist analysis and prevision with astrology," he charges. He also implicates the comfortably exiled cadres in the worst excesses of Stalinism. His document is therefore sacrilegious in the extreme. But it is not the hollow ax-grinding of another embittered member of the ex-comrades club.

Self-criticism.

Autobiografia is an "auto-critique" as well. Federico Sanchez is spared little of the author's sad scorn: "It would be too easy to forget," he says, "that I sang the mass and spoke the responses." And so we see his pathetic "Canto a Dolores Ibaruri" and a poem written on the death of Stalin—"Our father is dead..."

It hurts, but not as badly as the hanging of his comrade, Josef Frank, by the Czech authorities in 1952. "But you had been in Buchenwald," Semprun says to Sanchez. "You lived by the side of Josef Frank there: nothing could ever convince you that he had been a Gestapo agent. Yet you said nothing."

Autobiografia, published last November, has sold almost 340,000 copies in Spain. It set off an explosive polemic that raged almost daily in the press during its first couple months of diffusion. It is Semprun's first major work in his native tongue. When I spoke to him in his Paris apartment, I wanted to know if the book's impact on his former party's fortunes had concerned him.

"I had purposely published it *after* the legalization of the party and June's elections," he said.

"You didn't want to hurt the plan for legalization of the PCE?" I asked.

"That's it. And above all I didn't want the book to be used or manipulated by the right during the electoral period. It was published at a perfect time: midway between the free, democratic elections—well, almost democratic, pre-democratic—and the first legal PCE congress in Spain since 1932. Hence there had to be a very intense discussion going on within the party then and the book played a role in it."

"Perhaps that sounds a little pretentious, immodest, but I think I can say so as an objective fact. It's certainly one of the elements that permitted militants to demystify the persons of Carrillo and the other leaders; and to have a critical attitude and lack of respect, in the good sense of the term, for Carrillo and the leaders—a different discussion."

"Now, all that is long gone as the party has since taken back in hand the whole system, apparatus, internal life, etc. It's finished. Though for several months there, the book did play a certain role."

"Was that your intention?"

"Definitely."

Unfortunately, the PCE's response to *Autobiografia* has done little more than fuel the fire of what is ultimately the book's hottest political argument: that as long as the party is rife with Stalinist attitudes and continues to falsify its own history, its adoption of "Eurocommunist" positions is rendered gravely suspect.

After a feeble effort at political refutation, Semprun claims, the PCE fell back on "personal approaches." Not disputing the testimony, they try rather to discredit the witness. How could Semprun dare? It's part of a CIA campaign, etc. Really, all the habitual arguments that sidestep a serious discussion.

"Carrillo himself wrote several articles on the book but always saying he hadn't read it yet. And finally, he said he'd never write his own memoirs because a man of politics can never tell the whole truth."

"He said that?"

"He said that."

Truth. Semprun's concern with it is intense, extreme. He once wrote: "Truth is always revolutionary." I wondered if he still believed in this Orwellian credo.

"Well, that is a formula that I've used at certain times—a formula of Gramsci—against the cynicism, against the absence of memory and the falsification of history of the Stalinist epoch. I don't think you should make more of this than a kind of personal morale. I don't know at all if it really works in history. (Smiling) I don't know if the proclamation of truth could really transform society and make the revolution. But as a personal moral I find it just; and the experience of Orwell, with regard to Spain, shows to what point."

Paying off a debt.

What is to be done? Semprun is not yet sure. While Federico Sanchez's struggle was for a viable PCE, Jorge Semprun's is not. He finds it difficult to see how Eurocommunism has clearly distinguished itself from Stalin's Popular Front, and he finds their critique of "the Russian model insufficiently profound. I purposely say 'Russian' because 'Soviet' seems to me a semantic abuse."

Finally: "I do not really believe that a communist party of the Stalinist tradition can auto-reform and auto-transform itself into a party both democratic and revolutionary." Nor is he heartened by dreams of "replac[ing] the party with the true Leninist tradition."

"Personally, I try to stay aligned with the leftist movement without the paternal/patriarchal security of a party—whether it be socialist or communist. Obviously, that's a more solitary position but for the present it's the only one that interests me."

Unlike many of the intellectuals that broke with the Communist party, Semprun takes satisfaction in not having "betrayed that communist liberty that led me into the party at age 18 and that now, in identical commitment to stringency and coherence, was expelling me." Nevertheless, he understands those like Malraux who did not finally come to share his Marxist vision.

"Malraux's rightist political period," he told me, twisting a phrase of Lenin's, "is the atonement of a Stalinist sinner." I suggested that *Autobiografia de Federico Sanchez* is paying off a similar debt. "One could say so," he said.

I wanted to know if Semprun had ever thought it all just too ridiculous, useless. I asked if he'd had doubts. "I haven't had the personal experience," he replied, "of continuing to work despite the doubts. Because the first thing doubts produce is a discussion, and an attempt to elaborate another strategy and expel the doubts. Doubt, for me, is not something passive. It is active. It provokes a new reflection, and hence, a new praxis."

Theo Blomquist lives in Paris and closely follows Spanish politics.

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IN THESE TIMES

Are new China-U.S. deals a threat to the revolution?

UPI



People flock to news dealer to get extra editions of PEOPLE'S DAILY to read of the normalization of China-U.S. relations.

Has China bought out to the West?

By David Milton

FOR MORE THAN THREE DECADES, thousands of American progressives fought to bring about official recognition by Washington of the People's Republic of China. The historic issue was finally resolved in Peking rather than in the U.S. By making all the key concessions on the main issue of Taiwan, Chinese leaders made it clear that they would accept official ties with the U.S. on the terms laid down by Washington.

On Dec. 2, Vice Premier Teng Hsiao-ping officially stated: "The United States can keep its economic interests in Taiwan. It can continue its investments. China has no intention of bringing down Taiwan living standards." Within days, Peking signalled Washington that it would ignore future American arms sales to Taiwan.

Carter was, without doubt, eager to receive the gift China had presented to him. China's indestructible "capitalist roader" and the real power in Peking, Teng is also a man in a hurry. The road he has chosen will bring him to Washington on Jan. 29, 1979.

Learn from the bourgeoisie.

Chinese leaders have recently astounded the diplomatic and business capitals of the world by renouncing China's historic concept of revolutionary self-reliance. Peking has now come up with a deceptively simple solution to the complex problems of industrialization and modernization that have occupied the best minds of China for more than a century. The solution proposed by Teng and his followers for making the most populous country on earth an advanced nation is to contract out the industrialization of China to the capitalist world. How the bills are to be paid for what may be the largest contract in history appears to present no difficulties for Peking planners.

The purchases will be charged.

A spokesman for Japanese business groups involved in the intricate negotiations with Peking over what amounts to the purchase of an entire national economy remarked with a note of incredulity to the press: "Chinese revisionism knows no bounds."

The political slogan adopted by the Chinese press that reflects the nation's sudden lurch from the extreme left to the extreme right is "Learn from the Bourgeoisie." Hu Chiao-mu, the 73-year-old veteran theoretician recently rehabilitated to head the new Academy of Social Sciences, has called for replacing the old Maoist slogan of "putting politics in command" with "putting economics in command."

In a major article in the *People's Daily* last Oct. 16, Hu argued that China must copy the methods of economic management of the capitalist countries. "The proletariat can and must learn from the bourgeoisie," Hu declared.

This same line was echoed by the influential *Kwangming Daily*, which stated that Chinese enterprise could take a lesson from the capitalist system in "the way authority is divided in a unified management and in assigning responsibility and accountability to the holder of each position." Having solved the problem of ideology, Chinese leaders are now moving at breakneck speed to step up their purchases of the components of the new economy.

Planned projects.

It is impossible to catalog all the recent projects and purchases. These are just some:

•**Oil.** China reached agreement with the Japan National Oil Company for joint petroleum development of the Po Hai Gulf and the Pearl River Delta. Five or six major American oil companies have submitted further oil and gas proposals. *Business Week* says the biggest deals are yet to come.

•**Iron and steel.** A German group headed by Schloemann-Siemag is negotiating to construct the largest steel complex in the world in Hopeh Province, at an eventual cost of some \$14 billion. Nippon Steel

Continued on page 8.

Catching up can't be done in isolation

By William L. Parish

A STORY CIRCULATES IN CHINA that in 1961, on an abortive mission to Moscow to heal the growing rift between China and Russia, Premier Chou En-lai was met by Nikita Khrushchev. At this meeting, Khrushchev noted to Chou that while they shared one thing in common, there was one basic difference between them. "We both made a revolution, but while your father was a bourgeois, mine was a proletarian," Khrushchev said. Thinking for a moment, Chou replied, "Yes, that is true. But you have forgotten one additional thing that we have in common—we both turned against our fathers."

Apocryphal or not, the popularity of this story in some circles in China illustrates the deep distrust between the two countries. This distrust led to the sudden withdrawal of Russian aid and technicians in 1960, a border skirmish in 1969, and Chinese anger over a new defense pact between Vietnam and Russia in the fall of this year. Fear of encirclement by Russia has driven Peking toward formal ties with Washington and the acceptance of conditions that would have seemed completely unacceptable just a few weeks ago, especially delayed suspension of the Taiwan-U.S. defense pact and no objection to the peaceful settlement of Taiwan.

Peking has also been driven towards Washington in its quest for modernization. European traders have long reported that the Chinese would prefer to buy the latest technology from the U.S. China has continued to buy what in Chinese eyes is second best from Europe, only because of the absence of formal recognition between Peking and Washington. With ever more grandiose goals for the year 2,000, Peking could no longer allow this barrier to stand in its way. Exchanges of students, purchases of fertilizer plants,

and transfers of other technology has already begun, but much more is desired as China begins to emulate the U.S.

While these developments may bode well both for American trade and the security of East Asia, their consequences for the people of China and for the ideals that made China so attractive as a socialist state remain in question. Teng Hsiao-ping, who was bitterly attacked in 1966 as leading China down Khrushchev's revisionist road, is firmly in control.

Ideals of equality, ideological commitment, and service to one's fellows appear to some people to be sacrificed to the almighty god of rapid economic growth. Even while China rejects Russia for an alliance with Washington and jokes about Khrushchev circulate within China, China appears in some ways to be backing into the Soviet model of development.

Privileges restored.

Technocrats and old bureaucrats have been restored to power and prestige, while many of the young turks who rose to power in the 1966-76 decade have been demoted. In schools, teacher authority and discipline, along with promotion by exams and scholastic tracking have been restored. In industry, one-man factory management, work rules, and material incentives have reappeared. In the countryside, peasants have more leeway to engage in private sideline endeavors.

As repugnant as some of these policies may be to some Chinese, there are many other Chinese who stand firmly behind them. The reason that Teng Hsiao-ping can move so far so fast in overturning past policies is that many Chinese were thoroughly alienated by the excesses of the last decade. Many parents were alienated when their children were sent to the countryside with no promise of ever returning. Unable to cope with the heavy physical demands of village labor and unable to earn their keep, those in their late teens and early twenties had to remain, in very un-Chinese fashion, partially dependent on a monthly allowance from their parents. Others drifted back into the cities to lounge aimlessly in the streets.

Younger children were not immune. Seeing no point to studying when they

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IN THE NATION

ELECTIONS, 1980

Harrington for President?



Jane Melnick

By David Moberg

WHILE JIMMY CARTER has steadily steered right during his two years in the White House, the left wing of the Democratic Party has increasingly prayed that Ted Kennedy will come to their rescue in the 1980 with a challenge to the President in the primaries.

But Teddy is still saying "no," despite his frequent trips to party dinners and gatherings where he lambasts one or another of Carter's programs.

So Michael Harrington, with the divided approval of the Democratic Socialist Organizing Committee, of which he is national chairman, has decided to explore the possibility of running against Carter in selected primaries. Harrington's cautious hope would be to push Carter leeward on issues, not to defeat him.

Harrington, a widely published socialist writer (*The Other America*, *Socialism*, *Twilight of Capitalism* and other books) and a founder of DSOC in 1973 after the three-way split of the old Socialist Party, would run as a Democrat on a left-liberal issues program such as that advanced by the Democratic Agenda. Although publicly identified as a socialist, he would not press for socialism in his campaign.

Harrington still calls Kennedy the "optimism" candidate. "The basic proposition—as I am now convinced and as I think all of us are, including those who don't like the idea of my candidacy—is that Carter has to be challenged with a candidate," says Harrington. "There's no way we can go into the 1980 convention and fight on issues without a candidate."

Harrington and DSOC members are particularly angry at Carter's abandonment of the 1976 Democratic platform, which they worked to influence.

Harrington envisions his potential candidacy as a left-wing variant of George Wallace's "send-them-a-message" campaign. It would probably not match Eugene McCarthy's 1968 challenge in strength and numbers, one DSOC leader says.

Harrington also believes that his candidacy could "mobilize the left" so that it would be more capable of keeping accountable any Democratic candidate who might replace him as the Carter challenger.

However, as Harrington says, "it's a

sign of the weakness among liberals that once you've mentioned Kennedy, you've exhausted the possibilities." Sen. George McGovern (SD), Cong. Ron Dellums (CA) and former Sen. John Culver (IA) are mentioned by some but less seriously.

Harrington's exploration of a Carter challenge was debated within DSOC at its Nov. 18-19 board meeting in Philadelphia, even though Harrington will ultimately make his decision in late January as an individual. He will want strong DSOC backing but would form a broad campaign committee and not run as a DSOC candidate. The board of the 2,800-member organization split 37 to 17 in favor of checking out a challenge.

Many of the board members tied to organized labor opposed the move. The opposition favored sticking with various coalition efforts—such as the "Fraser coalition" pulled together by the Auto-workers president—and feared that a Harrington candidacy could isolate DSOC and disrupt the new coalitions. Most seem determined to wait for Kennedy to make the challenge.

Proponents of the challenge argue that the electoral left-liberal camp is collapsing and the right is dominating the political arena, that Carter is losing popularity, and that there is a potential left constituency drawn from progressive labor unions, women's organizations, minorities, citizen action groups and students that could coalesce around a Harrington candidacy. Top labor leaders, DSOC strategists concede, will be hard for Harrington to corner, but local and state officials may come out for him.

Unlike the opponents who argued that there would never be enough money or people power to pull off a credible campaign, challenge supporters, such as Harry Boyte from Minneapolis, argued that "it's a great opportunity. We have a Democratic incumbent who's caving in to corporate power. There's no liberal-left candidate and Harrington is well-known."

Jack Clark, national secretary of DSOC, argues that Harrington's candidacy as a socialist within the Democratic Party guarantees his being taken as part of the "mainstream" of American politics. There is, however, considerable sentiment on the left that any challenge within the Democratic Party, rather than through a new third party, will be drowned in that mainstream.

LABOR

Coor's strike ends in bitter defeat

By Timothy Lange

GOLDEN, COLO.

TWENTY-ONE MONTHS AFTER it began, the strike at the Adolph Coors brewery ended in defeat for brewery workers' Local 366. In a union decertification election held Dec. 13-14, maintenance and production employees voted two-to-one to dump the local as their bargaining agent.

But union leaders here vowed to intensify a strike-connected boycott of Coors beer in the 16 states where it is distributed. "Coors is losing money, but he hasn't seen nothing yet," said union president Jim Silverthorne. He said he was surprised by the margin of the 993-408 defeat, but "was never convinced we would win. I just thought it would be closer. What we heard from people [in the plant] was that we stood a slim chance."

The strike was weak from the beginning. For most of the past year, with more than two-thirds of the union's members back on the job, the strike stayed alive through the efforts of 50-60 picketers and the hope that favorable government decisions on relatively minor unfair labor practice charges would somehow improve the situation. Late last month, the National Labor Relations Board ruled against the union's remaining charges.

Knowing that the NLRB decision would renew Coors' previous demands for a decertification election, and not wanting to have a vote date set too near to Christmas, Local 366's leaders called for the election themselves.

The problem, according to unofficial spokesperson Ray Marcouillier, was that 510 strikebreakers working on the plant could vote on the union question and 480 brewers still on strike could not. NLRB rules prohibit voting by workers if they have been permanently replaced for more than a year. "Coors won with 70 percent," Marcouillier said, "but if the strikers could have voted and the strikebreakers couldn't, we would have got 70 percent."

Bill Coors, who last year called strikers "monkeys," labeled the vote "a great victory for our people." He claimed it was the workers' "declaration of independence. This is the first time in 44 years that the company will be able to work directly with employees without having to go through a third party." Bill's brother Joe, the unreconstructed conservative whose millions have financed a dozen rightist causes, said after the election that his company is not anti-union.

But Coors is a prominent supporter of the National Right-to-Work Committee. The committee has targeted both New Mexico and Colorado as states in which to

end closed-shop laws. Moreover, Local 366 isn't the first union to be stomped at the brewery. Since 1960, 17 other unions, from glassblowers to pipefitters, have been eliminated by the Coors' brothers. Several of the beer distributorships the company controls also have been deunionized.

Whether or not they were represented by a union, Coors workers have been subjected to polygraph tests, rotating shifts, seniority changes, and grotesque dismissal practices. It was these issues, not wages or benefits, that led Local 366 to initiate the strike and boycott in the first place.

In April 1977, union leaders promised a quick victory—three months at the most—and 92 percent of the union members voted to go out. It soon became apparent, however, that with the boycott as the primary weapon, defeating Coors would take a very long time. Hundreds of workers decided they couldn't wait that long and returned to their jobs, crippling the strike.

With the strike over, Local 366 leaders say they will step up the AFL-CIO supported boycott in hopes of "exposing" the company. The polygraph tests and brother Joe's political contributions will be a major focus of this exposure, according to Marcouillier.

Although the company denied for

months that its reduced sales for the past year and a half had anything to do with the boycott, officials now admit that it's not doing the brewery any good. But corporate communications officer Craig Kuhl told IN THESE TIMES that Coors' toughest opponent in overcoming the sales slump is not the boycott but the competition from other beer makers.

Coors is still safely in fifth place among the nation's brewers, but it, along with No. 4 Pabst and No. 3 Schlitz, have been hurt by an advertising campaign of No. 2 Miller and No. 1 Budweiser. In 1976, Coors spent less than \$2 million on advertising, most of the money paying for unsophisticated billboards and TV spots. In response to the other brewers' marketing strategy, however, Coors has spent \$10-12 million this year for skillfully produced commercials, including one that claims the company is a wonderful employer and ends with the slogan, "Our people make it better."

Coors has also introduced a "light" beer to compete with Miller's, and is rapidly expanding its distribution area. Kuhl said the ads and new light beer is helping Coors gain on Pabst and Schlitz. The ad campaign and growing regional market seem likely to make the boycott a good deal tougher to continue effectively.

But Marcouillier says he, for one, will not give up. "The public has supported us well, and we see no reason why they should stop now. The practices we are fighting are still going on at Coors. We're not down and out by a long shot."

CITIES

Kucinich doesn't trust Cleveland banks

By Al Di Franco

CLEVELAND'S MAYOR DENNIS J. Kucinich has been holding office with a gun to his head since early spring, when forces began gathering for the Aug. 13 recall initiative. The mayor fought a door-to-door battle, surviving the contest by a scant 235 votes. But the powers that control Cleveland have taken their revenge.

In his 1977 campaign and again last August, Kucinich promised that there would be no tax increases and that the Municipal Electric Light and Power Co. (Mun Light) would remain in public hands. But now with the first big-city default since the Depression hanging over Cleveland, Kucinich has been forced to propose a public referendum in February on the sale of Mun Light and on a one-half percent income tax increase.

After an eleventh hour Dec. 15 city council meeting that ended with the city in default on \$15.5 million in notes, Kucinich also announced drastic layoffs—about 20 percent—of police, firefighters, garbage collectors, laborers, and other city employees in order to save money to pay \$14 million of the \$15.5 million to six Cleveland banks.

Charges of bank blackmail.

The banks refused to refinance the city's debt unless Kucinich agreed to sell Mun Light to the privately-owned Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company (CEI). Seven CEI directors are also directors of four of the banks that hold city notes.

Charging "blackmail" and "You can't trust Cleveland Trust," Kucinich entered the bank on Dec. 18 and, with supporters surrounding him, withdrew his personal savings.

Mun Light has been at the heart of the default crisis. The power system, according to Muny commissioner Rich Barton, now supplies only 20 percent of the city's electricity needs, but has service lines "sprawling over two-thirds of the city."

Unlike many other big cities, CEI and Muny wires are frequently accessible in the same places. "All you have to do is call up and say 'Hey, I want to switch,'" Barton said of the system's competitiveness with CEI. He said 89 percent of Muny's customers were residential. They enjoy an approximate 6 percent savings in electric bills over CEI service, he said.

According to Barton, the only reason that more people don't switch from CEI to Muny is that since at least 1968, CEI has planned to undermine Muny Light "financially, politically, and operationally."

Anti-trust suit.

Pro-Kucinich forces say CEI's motives in the Muny bid are to gain monopoly power and to avoid paying damages in a \$329 million anti-trust suit that the city, backed by findings from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is taking to court in February.

CEI insists that no deal can be made unless the anti-trust suit is dropped—a move the Kucinich administration opposes as adamantly as it opposes sale of the utility.

Barton says the \$329 million is the damage done to Muny by CEI by refusing to sell electricity, forcing it to run its generators without rest.

In a dispute over rates, Muny withheld about \$14 million from CEI, of which \$11 million has now been repaid. But only \$3.6 million of the CEI bill has come from Muny revenue, according to Barton, the rest coming from Cleveland's general fund.

Muny's own generating plant is shut down and decaying on Cleveland's Lake Erie shoreline. But Barton said that there is no need to repair Muny's generating plant if new power can be brought in, and that the electric system can be spared major capital investments.

Critics of CEI and the predecessor ad-



Cleveland's mayor was forced to call for a vote next February on public power and an increase in taxes.

ministration of Republican Mayor Ralph Perk say the plant would be in working order today if Perk had not allowed it to decay in the effort to promote the Muny sale.

CEI challenges Barton.

Along with anti-administration forces, CEI challenges Barton's claim that Muny is making a profit. Barton said the utility will realize about \$1.4 million after adjustments for capital depreciation. He predicts a \$2 million profit for 1979.

In an earlier attempt to compromise on Muny, Kucinich proposed a three-member panel to govern Muny for 18 months and sell it if it failed to make money. The city council rejected this plan. The administration pointed to the rejection as what it called opponents' fears of being proven wrong on Muny's profitability.

To Barton's claim that, since July Muny "has been taking away more CEI customers than they've been taking from us," CEI Public Relations supervisor Charles Barry said, "I don't know. We've never looked into anything like that."

CEI also refuses to deny that it will ask the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio for a rate hike in order to pay for the Muny purchase. Barton says a Muny purchase would mean bigger electric bills for customers of both systems.

UAW opposes sale.

Don Coleman, chairman of the Cleveland-area Cuyahoga-Medina County United Autoworkers Community Action Program, said the union is "historically opposed to the sale [of Muny] because at least in theory it offers some competition" to CEI.



Above: Two Kucinich supporters demonstrate Dec. 18 outside the Cleveland Trust Co., one of the banks that the city defaulted to. Below: Dennis and Sandy Kucinich emerge after withdrawing savings from Cleveland Trust.

Kucinich's personnel director Sherwood "Bob" Weissman, told IN THESE TIMES that the city's financial crisis was "contrived rather than real"—contrived by business and political leaders bent on destroying Kucinich and Muny Light.

Weissman, with more than 20 years of labor organizing experience, including leadership of a United Auto Workers local at a Cleveland Chrysler plant, vowed the city would not give in to threatened work stoppage by city workers protesting the layoffs.

"All these unions have no-strike contracts. They're dealing with the most pro-labor administration they've ever dealt with and we have no intention of tolerating the attempt by the unions to dictate political and governmental policy in violation of their collective bargaining commitments," Weissman said. "We would have no choice but to stand up very vigorously to any effort to distort labor's role in this matter," he said.

Weissman said the city would "make the best of it" under the handicap of drastically reduced city safety and labor forces.

"That means we will concentrate police on street assignments and bring to an ab-

solute minimum the number who work in specialized units and desk jobs," he said.

State will not rescue.

Weissman added that "firefighters work only 4 percent of their time at most, anyway. The only reason for the number of firefighters is in order to be able to station them in the excessive number of firehouses that exist in all old cities based on the horse-and-buggy era. So it may take a minute longer for a response to some fires, but it will make no significant difference in terms of fires."

Weissman said there was "no possibility" for outside emergency help from the National Guard or Ohio Highway Patrol. "The city can't lay off their own safety forces and expect the state to come in and do it for them," he said.

On a possible state financial bailout, Weissman said, "Since this is a contrived crisis, it's unrealistic to expect that public officials are going to be interested in coming to our rescue."

He predicted, however, that Kucinich would run for a second two-year term and that "people will vote out the city council that cooperated in contriving this crisis."

By Larry Remer

SAN DIEGO

FOR NEARLY 40 YEARS THE "Guardians of the Secret," as they called themselves, held the destiny of Mexico close to their vests. The "Guardians" were a group of union leaders, geologists, engineers, and drill riggers who worked for PEMEX—Mexico's national oil and gas company—and who helped throw American oil companies out of the country in 1938. Fearful of a return of "Yanqui imperialism," they hid for years the fact that Southern Mexico sits atop one of the world's largest reservoirs of oil.

Today, that secret is out. Mexico is expected to become the world's next oil superpower. PEMEX claims—and geologists for ARCO and intelligence officials with the CIA confirm—that Mexico's present known reserves total more than 55 billion barrels. Potential reserves could total 200 to 300 billion barrels, with these figures being constantly revised upward as the results of more exploration become known. By way of contrast, Saudi Arabia's proven reserves total 158 billion barrels.

By the mid-1980s, Mexico is expected to become the world's largest oil producer—a prospect with far-flung repercussions for Mexico's domestic development and for the world economy.

The plan of the Guardians—and the force that led them to keep the oil secret from their own families and even from the political leaders of the country—was to wait until Mexico could develop its energy resources for its own use before making the existence of the oil fields public.

Fear of American intervention ran high in the late '30s when the Guardians were formed. Back then, the presence of American Marines, acting "to protect American interests" was a common sight in Latin America. In fact, the same Marine divisions that invaded Nicaragua to quell a progressive upsurge there and put the Somoza family in power in the mid-'30s also saw action in Veracruz and Tampico, Mexico.

But a new world situation—a post Vietnam era—gives Mexico and other Third

MEXICAN OIL

Mexicans sat on oil secret to keep U.S. out

World countries greater freedom to challenge U.S. economic hegemony over the non-communist world. Mexican presidents in this decade have not hesitated to do this. Mexico was one of the first nations in Latin America to defy the American economic embargo of Cuba and recognize the Castro government. More recently, Mexican president Jose Lopez Portillo made page 1 news around the world when, during a trip to Peking, he publicly declared that American employers were mistreating and exploiting Mexican nationals who had traveled to the U.S. in search of work.

Immediate development urged.

Now that the world situation is conducive to permitting Mexico to chart its own course for petroleum development, the internal dynamics of the country are clamoring for immediate development. In 1938, Mexico's population stood at 20 million. Today, it is 60 million and climbing at a 3 percent annual rate. Unemployment is rampant. Hunger widespread. And per capita income is less than \$550 a year.

American policy planners have been

eyeing Mexico's resources and its developmental problems. The State Department—with the aid of the major oil companies—has created a scenario wherein Mexico trades its oil wealth to the U.S. in exchange for technology to develop its resources and industrialize the country. Like the Saudi Arabian shieks who were camel traders in the desert a generation ago, Mexico's peasants and urban slum dwellers could find American suburban comfort by the end of the century.

Mexico, however, has indicated that the spigot won't be turned on so easily—not, at least, without assurances that it will be treated equitably in any arrangement. As of now, Mexico is not a member of OPEC (the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries), but PEMEX sales of Mexican oil on the world market are pegged to OPEC prices.

Moreover, Mexico is not beyond withholding oil and gas if the price it is asking is not met. Such was the case last winter when Mexico offered to sell natural gas to the U.S. at the prevailing world market price of \$2.60 per 1,000 cubic feet (mcf). It had been a long, cold winter on the north side of the border and the American gas

By the mid-1980s, Mexico will be the world's largest oil producer—a prospect with far-flung repercussions for Mexico's domestic development and for the world economy.

companies were eager to secure a steady supply of Mexican gas. In fact, a consortium of six American companies were commissioned to build a pipeline from Tabasco to Texas, through more than 500 miles of jungle, swamp, mountains, and desert. But 11 months and a billion dollars later, Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger abruptly announced that the U.S. would not pay Mexico 44¢ more per mcf than current shipments from Canada were costing.

Mexican revenge.

Mexico's response: work on the pipeline was abruptly stopped and Lopez Portillo announced his country was no longer interested in selling natural gas to the U.S. Instead, Mexico is burning off more than 100 million mcf of gas each day to prevent an overload of pressure from building up on those oil wells it has in production. At night, the bright flares of the burnoffs can be seen for miles.

The natural gas issue will be at the top of the agenda when President Carter visits Mexico City Feb. 14-16 for a summit with Portillo. The National Security Council, in preparation for that meeting, has reviewed American-Mexican relations and outlined several proposed courses of action for Carter.

"Mexico represents a major new energy source—presently outside OPEC," declared an NSC study submitted to Carter last month. "Mexico could fill 30 percent of American oil and gas needs by the mid-1980s, thus enhancing security of supply and more than compensating for the decline of Venezuelan and Canadian supplies."

To secure a steady supply of Mexican oil, the NSC stated it might be necessary for the U.S. to revise its policy towards Mexico and make significant concessions on two thorny issues affecting the neighboring countries.

First, the NSC suggested the U.S. increase the number of Mexican workers permitted to enter the U.S. legally in search of employment. Presently, an estimated one-sixth to one-third of the Mexican workforce is in the U.S. as "undocumented workers," subject to immediate deportation if detected and—as a result of their status—the object of exploitation by unscrupulous employers who often pay less than minimum wages for Mexicans to work under sweatshop conditions.

Second, the NSC says the U.S. can lower the tariff on Mexican imports like vegetables and textiles. This move is vehemently opposed by agribusinessmen who want to protect their winter market from Mexican incursions. But Mexican winter vegetables are both cheaper and of higher quality than those available in the U.S., and such a move would be a boon both to American consumers and the Mexican economy.

Carter takes Brown's lead.

The logic of proximity and the internal demands of both countries will probably force Portillo and Carter to make a deal. Some have suggested that Carter is merely following the lead of California governor Jerry Brown who has already held several talks with Mexican leaders to line up an energy supply for California. Brown has called for development of a "common market of North America" to include Canada, the U.S. and Mexico in an economic unit similar to Europe's. And if Carter and the NSC are stealing some of Brown's ideas, it won't be the first time.

The bottom line for the U.S. is the prospect of a new energy supply independent of the Middle East. Already the international ramifications of this prospect are apparent. Reports from Jerusalem indicate that Israeli intelligence is predicting an Arab-Israeli war in the early '80s before Mexican oil comes on the line and the threat of an Arab oil embargo is diminished.

The Mexican people, meanwhile, are skeptical of this new-found oil wealth will really filter down to them. Mexico's left has been growing as Mexican workers clog Mexico City (population now 14 million) and the towns along the U.S. border in search of work. Dissatisfaction is widespread, and there has been a notable upsurge of strikes and anti-government rallies in major cities. It hasn't reached the point it did in 1976, when armed peasants seized portions of Mexico's vast landholdings, forcing the government to cede them tracts to start family farms. But the workforce is finding political expression through a handful of left-wing parties who, in the recent round of regional elections, gained more than a quarter of the vote in several provinces.

Alejandro Gascon, who heads the Party of the Mexican People, announced in Tijuana last month the formation of a national coalition of the left—including the Mexican Communist Party and the Revolutionary Socialist Party. Their plan is to present a common platform in the next round of elections in 1979, building for a direct challenge to the ruling PRI (Institutional Revolutionary Party) in 1982.

Gascon believes that oil development will help—not hinder—the left. First of all, it will hasten industrialization and the development of a working class, he notes. Secondly, he states, oil riches in Iran and Venezuela did little to improve the plight of the average family there. Hundreds of millions, instead, were siphoned off to Swiss bank accounts or spent on military hardware instead of social programs. Will Mexico—where a handful of families literally own most of the country and where the tradition of *mordida* (the bite) is ingrained in the culture—prove any different.

If anything, Gascon predicts, the contradictions will be heightened as the oil flows to the U.S. and the rich in Mexico get richer. "This will ripen the trends towards socialism. And we predict that Mexico will have a socialist government by the year 2000."



Workers in the Southern Mexican oilfields.

ENERGY

Industry bungling leads to gas shortage

By Robert Scott

IN THE PAST SIX MONTHS, THE U.S. Department of Energy has issued more than 40 separate notices of intent to prosecute oil companies for consumer overcharges totaling over \$2 billion. The industry's shabby record of cheating the public makes recent announcements of yet another gasoline shortage unbelievable. But the current shortage is real. And a greater one almost developed this summer.

The shortage is the result of mismanagement of American oil refining capacity. It occurs at a time when important federal decisions are about to be made on the decontrol of gasoline prices, the possibility of relaxing EPA standards for removal of lead from gasolines, and the preparation of Part II of President Carter's National Energy Plan (due for release April 1, 1979).

These policy options will directly affect consumers and the healthfulness of the urban environment. A 12¢ per gallon hike in the price of gasoline (possible within the next year) will reduce the income of the poorest consumer by a full 1 percent. The effect on middle and upper-income families will be lower (about .5 percent and .25 percent).

Before the 1973 oil embargo, the U.S. relied on imports for about 36 percent of its total petroleum demand. About half the imports were crude oil, and the other half products such as heating oil and gasoline. Since the embargo, the U.S. oil industry has made substantial investments in refineries, or "downstream" capacity. As a result, the great bulk of imports (73 percent) is unrefined crude oil. Total refinery capacity in this country has increased by 24 percent since 1973.

In contrast, U.S. crude oil production has fallen by 6 percent since 1973. This is surprising in view of the fact that there is still potential for producing a great deal more oil in the U.S. There are two basic reasons for the decline. First, it takes five to seven years from discovery of an oil field to production of crude oil. Exploration stimulated by the 1973 price increases will not begin to pay off until 1979 or 1980. Second, though it would be reasonable to expect U.S. oil production to rise significantly in the near future, given oil prices, the oil companies have been diverting large portions of their oil revenues away from basic crude oil production. According to *The Oil and Gas Journal* (Nov. 13), "With price increases, companies like Exxon and Phillips Petroleum are generating such massive cash flows that traditional investment areas can't absorb the capital."

In other words, these companies are diversifying into other energy forms (e.g., coal, nuclear and solar) and into non-energy investments such as Middle Eastern Petrochemicals (Royal Dutch/Shell) and the Packaging Corp. of America (Tenneco). Diversification means that a smaller share of our gasoline dollars are going into producing energy available in the U.S., which was supposed to be stimulated by oil price increases.

Beginning in early November, rumors of a growing shortage of gasoline and heating oil began to circulate. Recently, the shortage cries have become louder and more specific. On Dec. 1, Shell Oil Company announced that it was beginning to allocate supplies of gasoline to its dealers, confirming shortage rumors. Unleaded premium gas is in shortest supply. The problem is compounded by the fact that only three companies supply premium unleaded gas, which is used to control engine "knock" and "pinging" in late model cars. The three companies are Shell, Standard Oil of Indiana (Amoco) and Mobil. All three are having difficulty supplying the demand and Shell and Amoco have begun allocating supplies, with 10 to 15 percent reductions in net deliveries of unleaded gas to dealers.



This boarded-up station is one result of Shell's incompetence.

With the White House set to deregulate prices, the shortage couldn't have come at a better time for industry.

The shortage could not have come at a better time for the industry. For 18 months the Department of Energy (and its predecessor, the Federal Energy Administration) has been considering the deregulation of gasoline prices. The President and his administration have been reluctant to deregulate. This could reflect difficulties with getting the National Energy Plan through Congress (with its deregulation of natural gas prices). Approaching elections last fall could also have influenced the administration.

A hype for the industry.

With NEP and natural gas deregulation realized, the White House is giving active consideration to the deregulation of gasoline prices. A proposal to this effect will likely be sent to Congress when it convenes in January. Under previously passed law (The Emergency Petroleum Allocation Act of 1973), the President has the authority to carry out deregulation at his own initiative. Congress has the power to review and veto his decision within 15 days.

But gasoline prices are not the only things at stake. Under pressure from the industry, and parts of the administration, the Environmental Protection Agency is considering the use of .5 grams/gallon of lead in "unleaded" gasoline, as a way of alleviating the current shortages. In addition, the industry has charged that it is

constrained by a shortage of "sufficient unleaded capacity, resulting from DOE regulations." Finally, the industry and the energy agencies have complained for years about environmental obstruction of plans for new and expanded oil refineries in various parts of the country. Pressure for relief from local environmental standards is growing.

Government and industry officials both have attempted to calm consumer fears of long lines at the gas station with reassurances that "This is a corporate problem, not a national problem." Oil analyst Herbert Hugo, editor of *Platt's Oilgram*, suggested "that motorists keep their tanks at least half filled at all times, and buy gas during normal working hours." Hugo failed to point out that the impact of his suggestion would be a significant reduction in U.S. gasoline stocks.

Experts agree.

Most experts seem to agree that prices should be deregulated. Alfred Kahn, the Chief of the President's Council on Wage and Price Stability, recently told the Congressional Joint Economic Committee that he believed the shortage of unleaded gasoline was caused by government regulation. Kahn then made the curious suggestion, given his job, that "In the long run I've got to say we've got to let the [energy] price go up."

Supplies of petroleum products are usu-

ally measured in terms of stocks on hand. Stocks fluctuate greatly over the course of the year. Typically, refineries produce a gasoline surplus during the winter (November to March), and then draw supplies from the stocks during the summer peak demand. However, even with the storage of gasoline in "off-peak" periods, it is necessary to increase production to peak levels during the summer months to meet demand without endangering reserves.

A similar pattern is followed in the production of heating oil, in surplus throughout most of the year. Production of heating oil must be at its peak during the winter season to preserve a minimal level of stocks.

Supplies not too low.

Although there is a shortage of unleaded, total gasoline supplies are not dangerously low. For the week ending Dec. 8, total stocks of gasoline stood at 224 million (42-gallon) barrels, enough for about 30 days. This is about 11 percent lower than during the same week last year, but well above the minimum level of stocks during the 1973-74 oil embargo. Last year at this time, the oil companies had a large oversupply, which explains this year's lower figure. The disposal of last year's excess is closely related to present disruptions in the supply of unleaded gasoline.

In January 1978, stocks of gasoline reached record high levels. Refiners had 273 million barrels on hand. This oversupply caused the market price of gasoline to decline. The price drop was apparently enhanced by competition from high-volume unbranded gasoline outlets. As a result of the over-supplied condition, the refiners were not able to obtain the maximum controlled prices for their products.

The gasoline glut resulted in two impor-

Continued on next page.

China, U.S. trade

Continued from page 3.

Company is already constructing a \$3 billion steel plant on the outskirts of Shanghai. Kaiser Engineers of the U.S. has just signed a contract for the complete construction of two giant iron ore mines. China has signed a protocol with four West German mine equipment producers for \$4 billion in mine equipment, plant and technology.

•**Transportation.** Dutch and Japanese companies have won contracts to construct ports on the Yangtze river and to rebuild the Shanghai and Tientsin port areas. Billions of dollars in orders for new ships and dry docks are in the bidding stage.

Peking wants the Japanese and Europeans to reconstruct the entire national railway system including the installation of automated and computerized marshalling yards, electrification of major lines and the replacement of Chinese steam locomotives with diesel and electric engines.

•**Tourism.** Pan American World Airways will build five or six 1,200-room hotels in major Chinese cities at a cost of some \$500 million. United Airlines and major hotel companies are bidding for additional luxury hotel complexes throughout China. The U.S. Amherst Group also recently signed a letter of intent to build six international class hotels in China including one in Lhasa, the capital of Tibet.

Other deals already completed include a \$117 million copper smelter to be built by the Japanese, a \$100 million iron ore mine to be constructed by Bethlehem Steel Company of the U.S., and a \$13 billion agreement signed by China and France that will include two American-designed nuclear power plants and a separate agreement for the purchase of \$2.7 billion dollars in modern armaments.

It is also reported that Washington has agreed to build and launch a space satellite for the Chinese that will control China's domestic communication network. When asked whether the U.S. would have the technical capability of turning this satellite on or off, a Washington official replied, "Yes."

Revising the constitution.

Japanese sources have estimated that China would require \$600 billion to finance its ambitious target of achieving economic modernization by the year 2000. A local communist newspaper in Hong Kong quotes Chinese officials as estimating the cost at \$700 billion.

According to the *New York Times*, Peking leaders are now in the process of revising the Chinese Constitution to include an incorporation and patent clause that would protect foreign property once established on Chinese soil. Peking has projected plans that include the use of

cheap Chinese labor to produce American brand products under American direction, Sino-American joint venture projects in Hong Kong and American exploitation of Chinese resources. The question arises of whether Taiwan may now become the model for the development of the mainland.

Immediately after Carter's announcement of the establishment of formal U.S.-China ties, American business informed the press that it intends to invest another \$20 billion in Taiwan. Simultaneously, Li Chiang, Chinese Minister of Foreign Trade, welcomed American companies to open joint venture companies and factories in China. Previously, the Chinese had stated that maximum ownership of such companies would be limited to 49 percent for the foreign partner and 51 percent for China. Now Li declared the percentage of ownership was up for negotiation and whether foreign ownership would be permanent or temporary was also open to negotiation.

Potential risks.

As an example of the potential risks of China's new open door, consider the planners' decision to persuade Northern Chinese to abandon their traditional noodles for bread. Chinese officials have told Americans that Chinese workers go home and cook rice at noontime and that this results in much wasted time. Productivity would increase, they argue, if the workers adopted the American custom of taking sandwiches to work. Such a change would, according to American agricultural experts, add possibly 21 million metric tons of grain to the worldwide demand. Only 13 percent of China's vast land mass is arable. These precious acres have been intensely cultivated by 85 percent of the population, largely by hand.

Peking planners hope to mechanize agriculture, but Western experts point out that mechanized farming cannot match the yields obtainable from acreage cultivated by hand, and since arable land is limited, it is not clear how the Chinese will replace intensive yields by extensive yields from opening up marginal lands. One bad crop yield and the Chinese will be forced to spend more of their scarce currency reserves on grain imports from America and Canada. Unintended consequences of precipitous decision making by Chinese planners today will have to be met in the future.

China's new great leap into the storms and stresses of a limited market economy will bring other problems. The Chinese are now opening up a free labor market so that workers in the cities may travel anywhere to seek work suitable to their skills. What then of the rights of 650 million peasants? Will they also be free to travel, even to vote with their feet by

leaving the countryside as peasants have done under Western capitalism for the last 300 years? If not, then will there be two sets of rules, one for urban workers and one for peasants? It is doubtful if the great Chinese peasantry who produced the revolution in the first place will sit idly by if they are made second class citizens.

Then there are the strains created by the new elite educational system. Out of a population of 950 million, China has only two million college students. Five to six million young people took the recent entrance exams. The three to four million students who were denied entry and the hundreds of millions of others who were never considered in the first place are a potential source of trouble. As the old values of discipline and ideologically induced restraint erode, Chinese party leaders will be faced with formidable problems of political control by a party apparatus that has already lost much of its former legitimacy. Bribery is now the common method to obtain needed services in China's major cities.

The sending of tens of thousands of students abroad to make up a new Western-trained elite, the influx of tens of thousands of tourists who will be living in luxury hotels throughout the country, the

influx of tens of thousands of Western technicians, and the consumer ethos that is already replacing the simple ways of the past all represent the contents of the Pandora's box that Teng and his followers have now opened.

Sino-American alliance.

People of all countries will wish the Chinese success in fulfilling their goal of becoming an advanced and prosperous country by the year 2000. China has the sovereign right to make whatever decisions it feels are the best for its own development and welfare.

China's role as a new great power in the family of nations is another matter. In a recent interview with the American columnists Evans and Novak, Premier Teng told them that "China is pressing hard for not only diplomatic relations with Washington, but also a strong [military] Sino-American alliance against Moscow." President Carter has denied any such purpose in the American recognition of Peking, which he states is not directed against any other country.

David Milton teaches sociology at the University of Oregon. He is the co-author with Nancy Milton of The Wind Will Not Subside, a study of the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

Gasoline shortages

Continued from page 7

tant shifts in the industry. First, the refiners cut back production. Total refinery output fell to 84.25 percent of capacity in the first third of this year, down from a 90 percent average in 1977. In addition, the refineries apparently postponed planned increases in plant capacity.

Furthermore, refinery output was kept to reduced levels throughout last summer's peak driving season. Although total demand for gasoline was up about 3 percent over last year, refiners failed to increase production and allowed stocks of gasoline to fall during the summer to a low point of 209 million barrels in August, their lowest level since June 1975, lower than at any point during the oil embargo of 1973-74.

This figure of 209 million barrels was reached without any apparent shortages. The press did not notice it nor did industry or government analysts comment on it. Yet, when, in the week of Nov. 17, gasoline stocks dipped again, this time to 212.5 million barrels, shortages were immediately announced. What had changed? Had consumer demand soared? Had price controls caused a reduction in output?

Oil industry mismanagement.

The answer is that the oil industry has seriously mismanaged its refinery system, in terms of protecting the nation from shortages of essential fuels. Instead of following the earlier practice of building up stocks over the winter months, the oil companies did not maximize production until August. Even then, peak output (7.425 million barrels per day) was only 2.5 percent over the 1977 peak. It was too little and too late. Demand for gasoline was strong all summer, averaging 7.855 million barrels per day, an increase of 4.9 percent over 1977. In other words, production zigged and demand zagged. In order to catch up with rapidly disappearing stocks, the industry had to increase daily production throughout the fall months to record levels of 7.813 million barrels (for the week ending Dec. 8). Production rarely peaks so late in the year.

As a consequence of attempts to compensate for the shortage, the production of residual heating oil (which is somewhat interchangeable with gasoline production) has suffered slightly. Stocks are down about 13 percent over last year, not yet at dangerously low levels, and a hard winter could produce shortages in the supply of heating oil. At the very least, tight supplies will bring higher heating oil prices, already being felt in the Northeast.

Some oil industry and government officials have alleged that low, regulated prices have created the present gasoline shortage. Consumers have been blamed for too much driving. But consumption in the U.S. is only up about 3 percent

over last year. The present shortage is, in fact, the result of mismanagement of fuel stocks and refinery capacity by the oil industry.

Industry abhors competition.

Present shortages of premium unleaded gasoline have been aggravated by regulatory rules unique to the petroleum industry. The price of petroleum products has been controlled since Nixon's wage-price freeze, in June 1973. As the controls were finally worked out under the emergency allocation act, refiners are allowed to recover what would in any other market be lost profits. If, because of over supply, prices drop, the oil companies can later price over the legal maximum to recover "lost" profits and "bank" them against future losses. Producers are guaranteed a fixed long-term rate of profit.

The gasoline glut of winter, 1977-78, greatly increased these "banked" costs to a February high of \$1,265 million for the 29 largest refiners in the U.S. Under the law, refiners then proceeded to "withdraw" these banked costs by selling gasoline at prices above the legal maximum.

According to *Oil and Gas Journal* (Dec. 11), Shell Oil, one of three producers of premium unleaded gasoline in the U.S., exhausted its "banks" in August. Since then Shell has been in "A constrained (banked cost) position...[which] has limited Shell in pricing of gasoline and resulted in a supercompetitive price to all customers." In other words, Shell exhausted its banks before its competitors and, as a result, demand for its gasoline was up by 14 percent this fall, while total U.S. demand rose only 2 percent. The growing number of new cars using only unleaded has further strained unleaded supplies. But producers have known about this shift for several years.

Clearly, more regulation of refiners is the desired course, expanding from price controls into actual direction of the operation of refinery capacity. Deregulation of gasoline prices will simply give the oil companies license to further mismanage and manipulate supplies of motor fuel. The only statement we can make with assurance about deregulation is that the price will be high.

In the long run, we can resolve the present shortage of unleaded gas by increasing the production of "gasohol," which can increase gasoline octane ratings without the use of lead or other polluting additives. But until we have public management of refinery output we can expect to suffer from periodic shortages and continued distortions in petroleum supplies and prices.

Robert Scott works for the Center for the Biology of Natural Systems at Washington University, St. Louis.

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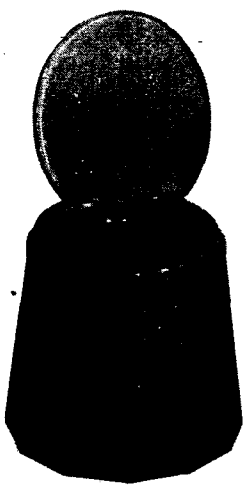
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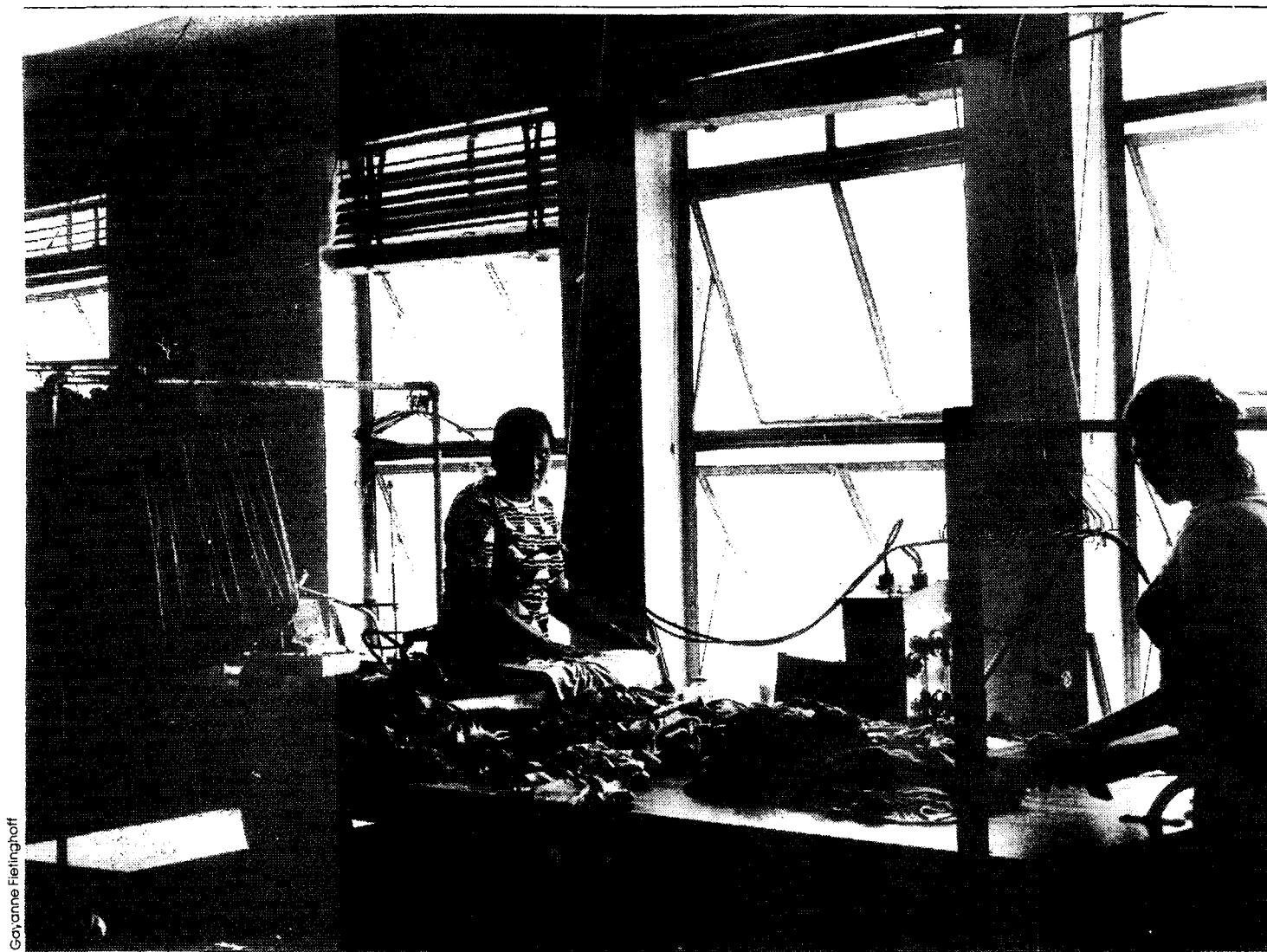
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MEXICANS IN U.S.



"Undocumented workers" in a shop of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union which was instrumental in preventing deportation of 65 workers.

By Larry Remer

EAST LOS ANGELES

MARIACHI MUSIC DRIFTS out from the cantinas and the smell of chile and salsa fills the air. Nearly all advertisements are in Spanish. So are the greetings from brown-skinned passers-by. Were it not for the distinctively Southern California stucco homes and wide-paved boulevards, this district could be a shopping area in any major Latin American city.

In fact, many people consider East L.A. just that. With a population of more than 1 million, this mini-metropolis serves as cultural capital to the Chicano population of the southwestern U.S. East L.A. has its own indigenous newspapers and radio stations, its own political power structure, and its own burgeoning art and theater scene. Were it a separate political entity, East L.A. would be the third largest Spanish-speaking city in North America after Guadalajara and Mexico City.

But, in all things economic and political, East L.A.'s Chicanos are in an inferior position compared to the whites who live in the affluent suburban areas surrounding the barrio. This inequality is aggravated by restrictive immigration statutes limiting the number of Latinos permitted to enter the U.S. in search of work. Tens if not hundreds of thousands enter illegally, many of whom are attracted to East L.A. where they form an economic underclass of "undocumented" workers and a large pool of exploitable, cheap labor.

Suddenly, however, one of the linchpins of this system of exploitation is being subjected to a serious legal challenge. Backed by labor unions frustrated in their efforts to organize Chicano workers, a group of legal aid lawyers have thrown a monkey wrench into the government's ability to deport "undocumented" workers. If their challenge is successful, both Chicano citizens and undocumented workers will benefit from the restriction of the power of the U.S. Border Patrol.

When the lime green vans of La Migra—as the Border Patrol is called—creep through East L.A., the streets go quiet. Practically every Chicano can count a close friend or relative among those vulnerable to summary arrest and deportation. There are an estimated 7-10 million "undocumented" workers living and working in the U.S. Each year, La Migra deports more than 750,000 people. Yet more come. As part of their constant

Immigrants win long fight with U.S. Border Patrol

The most significant development in the Sbicca case has been the emergence of organized labor as a force on behalf of "undocumented workers."

search for aliens, La Migra periodically conducts massive sweeps through Chicano communities, as well as raids on factories and workplaces where aliens are believed to be employed.

Special police force.

Knowledge of illegal workers from Latin America and elsewhere, living in barrios like East L.A., give La Migra its excuse for constantly policing the Chicano community. Over the years, the Border Patrol in the Southwest has emerged as a special police force for suppressing the Chicano population. And it is this harassment which is now under legal attack in the courts.

The test case arose from a raid by La Migra of the Sbicca shoe factory in South El Monte. Last spring a force of 40 armed immigration officers surrounded the factory and demanded that all employees produce their immigration documents. In the sweep, "undocumented" workers were arrested and taken to the L.A. INS office to be fingerprinted, photographed, and put on a bus for Mexico.

The raid was typical of dozens conducted each month by La Migra in the Los Angeles area. Those arrested were usually hurried out of the country so fast that by the time they had been missed by friends or family they were on the other side of the border.

But the Sbicca raid turned out differently. For several weeks, the Retail Clerks Union, AFL-CIO, had been organ-

izing at the shoe factory. As often happens, La Migra had been called by the Sbicca management to rid the shop of unwanted union agitators. But this time, before the workers had been put on the bus, one of the union's organizers brought in Peter Schey, an attorney with the Legal Aid Foundation.

Together with other lawyers from the ACLU, the People's College of Law, and the Los Angeles Center for Law and Justice, Schey went to court to seek a restraining order to stop the deportation. Their contention was that the Fourth Amendment rights of the workers had been violated when—before they were arrested—La Migra failed to advise them they were entitled to an attorney and that what they said could be used against them.

Lawyers win case.

The court order was granted and INS was ordered to stop the buses. Then, Schey and several other lawyers met with the workers to advise them of their rights and to offer their assistance. Of those arrested, 65 decided to fight deportation.

Before Sbicca, deportation hearings were typically handled quickly and efficiently. "Undocumented" workers who, by their own admission, lacked the proper permission for entering the U.S., typically did not even bother to fight the proceedings. Told that they could either be immediately expelled from the U.S. or—if they chose to fight—formally deport-

ed, in which case they would be jailed the next time they were apprehended inside the U.S., just about everyone chose immediate expulsion. Once released inside Mexico, they would painstakingly begin the process of sneaking back into the U.S. and getting established in a new job all over again.

But the attorneys for the "Sbicca 65" attempted a new strategy. Assured that previous admissions to Border Patrol officers would be inadmissible, they instructed their clients to invoke the Fifth Amendment when questioned about their status, place of birth, and length of time spent in the U.S. This forced immigration officials to ask representatives of the U.S. State Department to travel to the workers' hometowns and search for their birth certificates to prove that these people were born in Mexico and therefore not legally in the U.S.

The State Department not only lacked the staff to cooperate fully with La Migra, but even when it tried to obtain records, the cities of rural Mexico where most of the workers are said to be from proved too far-flung and record keeping there too inexact to produce any useful material.

Thus far, nearly half the Sbicca cases have been dismissed for lack of evidence. Moreover, the hearing process has forced immigration officials to bring their other activities in L.A. to a halt.

The Sbicca attorneys are optimistic that they can force La Migra to abandon altogether their factory raids and street sweeps. Notes Mark Rosenbaum of the ACLU, "I can't understand why nobody realized this before. These are people, not cattle. And they have the same rights against self-incrimination as you or I or anybody else."

Unions fight deportation.

However, the most significant development in the Sbicca case has been the emergence of organized labor as a force on behalf of "undocumented" workers. The existence of two categories of workers—those with documents and those without—has been the principal dynamic in the exploitation of Chicanos in the U.S. Under the guise of searching for so-called "illegal aliens," La Migra and local police agencies have harassed and threatened Chicano communities throughout the Southwest. More importantly, whenever Chicano organizing efforts—whether in the fields or in the factories—have started to coalesce, the green vans and buses of La Migra would soon appear on the scene to cart off the agitators and all the sympathizers, if possible. Even the fear of deportation has kept Chicanos from organizing at the workplace and—in many instances—from registering family members to vote here legally.

Over the past two years, several unions—notably the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), the International Longshoremen and Warehousemen's Union (ILWU), the Retail Clerks, and the United Electrical, Radio, and Machine Workers of America—have begun to organize "all workers" among the Chicano workforce in those industries where these unions are active. For the "undocumented," this has helped hasten the day when they can achieve full rights in the workplace.

The experience of the ILGWU is typical. "More than 75 percent of our members are Spanish speaking," notes Christina Ramirez, an ILGWU organizer. "And whenever we would start a campaign, the first thing the employer would do is call La Migra. Several times, it would be the day of a representation election and they'd show up and take away half the workers."

Ramirez states that wages for workers in unorganized shops rarely are above the minimum, with "undocumented" workers typically receiving even less.

"After Sbicca," Ramirez continues, "things have changed a lot. We're advising workers that they don't even have to talk to immigration. It makes them feel more secure and they're not afraid to get involved. Also, the number of raids has decreased and we've been more successful. Just this week 125 workers at Motif Apparel went on strike. All of them are 'undocumented.' And they went back today—with a victory."

IN THE WORLD

WORLD ECONOMY

Europe shields itself from falling dollar

By Josh Martin

A NEW GLOBAL ECONOMIC order is emerging in Europe, out of the ashes of the American dollar's swift fall this year. The major components of the European Monetary Union (EMU) to be launched Jan. 1 may be operational as early as 1980, governing the economic destiny of Western Europe and much of the world beyond.

The EMU was approved Dec. 5, following a two-day European summit. Its creation could bring a revolution in international finance, for it threatens the established role of the American-dominated International Monetary Fund as arbiter of the West's economic and trade systems, and will, experts believe, challenge if not replace the dollar as in international currency of account.

EMU offers trading states the prospect of a global currency far more stable than the dollar. Further, because it will be operated through the European Economic Community (EEC) rather than by individual member states, EMU represents a giant step toward the development of a sovereign, integrated United States of Europe.

The EMU will be able to play a major role in the international economy through the creation of a European Currency Unit (ECU) and a European Monetary Fund (EMF). The ECU, whose value would be supported by the economic resources of the member states, could be used as a unit of account in place of the dollar.

The EMF, like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), would act as an arbiter between trading nations, a lender of last resort. Half of the cash in the fund will be contributed by central banks, with the remainder from domestic currencies. The major component will be 18 billion German marks (\$9 billion), used to finance the deficits of weaker member currencies to keep them within accepted values relative to the ECU. Total reserves in this system could amount to an impressive \$50 billion.

For the new monetary union to work, European countries will have to give up



THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (EEC), POPULARLY KNOWN AS THE COMMON MARKET, IN WHICH the EMU will take hold, is a potential super power whose good will the U.S. has all too often taken for granted.

Western Europe is a larger trading entity than the U.S., controlling more than a third of the world's international trade, with a faster rate of economic growth. It is in the process of merging itself into a larger federated political unit, and would, if presently integrated, be counted as the world's third military power, after the U.S. and the Soviet Union (it has more military personnel, but fewer nuclear devices).

The annual Gross Domestic Product of the EEC is now at par with that of the U.S.—at approximately \$1.2 trillion. Their economy is growing faster in real terms, although the 258 million citizens live in a relatively resource-poor territory only one-seventh the 3,500,000 square miles occupied by 220 million Americans.

In crucial sectors of the economy, the EEC has achieved parity with the U.S. or surpassed it on a per capita basis. The EEC produces more steel, cement, autos, plastics and ships than the U.S.; its research and development budget—crucial for future growth—is twice that of the U.S., both in the private and public sectors. And in the area of social benefits, EEC countries have long surpassed the U.S.

more national sovereignty than they have ever been willing to cede—including their independent fiscal and economic policies. Only with a large, integrated economy can the EMU function as planned.

The present incarnation of EMU was born on the evening of April 7, 1978, in a small room in Copenhagen's Marienborg

Castle. Only 12 people were present when German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt unveiled his extraordinary plan to stabilize the currencies of Western Europe, but they included nine heads of government and EEC President Roy Jenkins, the man responsible for resurrecting the idea of monetary union after several earlier at-

tempts had failed.

Although it was clear that Germany would dominate any European union, it was also clear that the willing participation of other states in the European Community was essential for a monetary union to work.

The Germans pushed for hard currency values, while the British, Italians, and Irish, with some French support, pushed for more flexible exchange rates between the member currencies. The Germans want currency relations fixed to protect themselves from inflation and from export competition with goods sold at depreciated values. The weaker countries don't want to be forced into austerity programs in order to maintain their currency rates.

At the Marienborg summit, Germany got the other countries to agree to creating a system that would not allow wide variations from fixed values. But the French got the values of the currencies fixed in relation to flexible weighted average of the other countries—a "basket." This will lessen the impact of the strong currencies on the weak.

Schmidt is sure to make further concessions to the weaker economies of Europe for the sake of his system. In winning over the Italians, for example, he allowed them a generous 6 percent currency fluctuation as opposed to the 2.5 percent allowed other member currencies.

Only Great Britain has still not agreed to join, but its refusal is seen merely as a delaying tactic motivated by domestic politics. British Prime Minister James Callaghan must appease the anti-EMU bias of Labour's left wing in order to insure party unity in elections that must be held in 1979. "Politically," a government official observed, "we can't afford to appear to be taken ... on this monetary union."

European Economy rivals the U.S.

The American economic system is facing its most serious challenge since World War II. The activation of the European Monetary Union (EMU), Jan. 1, will affect the daily lives of all Americans because of our dependence on imported goods and our massive commitments abroad.

The present international economic order came into existence after World War II when American production and money rebuilt Europe. American surplus went abroad as goods and capital, and the gold-linked dollar became established as the medium of international exchange. But as American deficits grew during the Vietnam war and continued to mount, as European and Japanese economic performance rose, the dollar became overextended and vulnerable to depreciation.

Europe absorbed the American deficits and "imported" American inflation by accumulating far more dollars than it could use in trade or investment. Yet, when French President Charles de Gaulle tried in the 1960s to halt this "export" policy by exchanging the extra dollars for gold, the U.S. blocked his efforts.

In 1971, international pressure forced

President Richard Nixon to end the dollar's prestigious gold link, following this with a painful series of devaluations. But the dollar has since then remained an international currency, despite its weakness, because no other single nation has the resources to underwrite its own currency as a global unit of account.

Most international trade is still conducted in dollars as the unit of account. It is estimated that there are \$400-\$600 billion now flowing through the lines of international finance and trade. If a French truck maker wants to deliver a shipment to Peru, the terms are worked out in dollars, rather than in French or Peruvian currency. Similarly, if an Italian banker wants to loan a Nigerian firm funds to build a new plant, the sum will be computed—and contracted—in dollars. The dollar's depreciation in recent years has threatened the trade patterns on which Europe depends, forcing European leaders to take concerted action to stabilize currency values. The result has been the agreement to form the EMU.

The American reaction has been mixed. Government officials in Washington have welcomed the creation of the

EMU as a stabilizing force in the international economy, which recently has had to absorb the twin shocks of the dollar's decline and the oil price rises. At the same time, however, Treasury Department officials rightly fear that the EMU could drastically reduce the dollar's role in international finance, affecting American power abroad and the dollar's worth at home.

American Under-Secretary of the Treasury Anthony Solomon, addressing a Senate committee, expressed the hope that EMU would promote growth in Europe and elsewhere, but added that the U.S. would insist that the new monetary union "be administered in full conformity and in support of ... the IMF." That is to say, the U.S. wants any new economic union to be tied to the dollar's value.

But if the dollar continues to decline, the EEC might completely sever its currency from the dollar, and the Atlantic nations may divide into two huge economic blocs, engaging in the kind of trade rivalries that in the past led to depressions and war. Neither the Europeans nor the Americans want that to happen, but they may be unable to prevent it. ■

SPAIN

Fascist violence, Basque no-shows

By Casey Blake

MADRID

SPAIN'S FIRST CONSTITUTION since the end of the Civil War was approved in a popular referendum held last Dec. 6. The passage of the new constitution, which guarantees civil liberties within a parliamentary monarchy, is the culmination of a two-year process of "pacted rupture" with the Franco regime undertaken by Spain's major political parties.

The month-long campaign for the referendum was marked by almost daily terrorist attacks against Spanish police and politicians by the Basque nationalist group ETA, popular protests of the killing of unarmed ETA members by the Guardia Civil in the Basque country, and by the discovery of a military plot to overthrow Spain's elected government and establish a right-wing government of "national salvation."

But slightly more than half of the registered voters in the Basque country did not vote, with abstention as high as 57 percent in the extremely nationalist provinces of Guipuzcoa and Vizcaya. The populist Basque Nationalist Party (PNV) had urged abstention in response to the constitution's failure to recognize medieval legal rights to Basque self-government. The abstention rate in the country at large was only 32 percent of the registered population.

The smaller *abertzale* parties, composed largely of young people who wish to form a socialist Basque nation, had urged Basques to vote against the constitution, and three times as many Basques voted

Spain's constitution was approved this month. But the campaign opened old wounds.

"no" than did Spanish voters as a whole. The Basque nationalist daily *Egin* reported that few young people were seen at Basque polling places, despite the fact that the referendum was the first opportunity for 18-year-olds to vote in Spain.

All four of Spain's major parliamentary parties, from the rightist Popular Alliance (AP), the governing Union of the Democratic Center (UCD), the Socialist Workers party (PSOE), to the Communist party (PCE), had advocated approval of the constitution. Party leaders tended to downplay the Basque abstention, although it had exceeded their previous predictions, and the UCD and the Socialists—Spain's two largest parties—claimed that a combination of voter harassment by PNV poll-watchers and the climate of fear generated by constant terrorism had contributed to the results in the Basque country.

Compromising constitution.

The approved constitution is a compromise document, reflecting fairly accurately the present equilibrium of political forces in Spain. Proclaiming Spain an "advanced democracy," the constitution guarantees basic civil and social rights and, according to the PSOE and

PCE, allows for future transformations of the Spanish economy by leftist governments.

The Socialists and Communists got articles that submit the country's resources to the general interest of the population, and allow the "access of workers to the ownership of the means of production" and commit the government to providing employment and adequate housing, and that guarantee the specific rights of consumers, young people, and senior citizens. But they were forced to compromise on other articles that recognize the legitimacy of the Bourbon monarchy, freedom of business in a market economy, and the historical importance of the Catholic church in Spain.

The document does allow for legislative bodies of self-government in Galicia, Catalonia, and the Basque country—all three had such governments during the Republic—and for the future establishment of such legislatures in other regions. The constitution also guarantees the equality of men and women under law, but leaves the legality of divorce and abortion to future court decisions.

Planned coup.

The constitutional campaign developed in an atmosphere of great political tension, due to the ongoing terrorism of the military wing of ETA and to attempts by neofascist groups to manipulate public reaction to the terrorism to their own advantage. Outside the Basque country, the 7 percent of votes against the constitution are largely attributed to the far right's campaign to vote "no" on the referendum.)

On Saturday, Nov. 18, news that the government had blocked an attempted coup planned for the previous day by some 200 soldiers and police first appeared in Spanish papers. The government has still not released all the information it has regarding the plot, which apparently had as its aim kidnapping President Adolfo Suarez and establishing a quasi-military regime. The plot seems to have been led by a few army colonels, with the possible backing of publishers of two far-right daily newspapers, and counted

on the support of members of a Madrid police precinct to occupy the Moncloa presidential palace.

The plot's leaders hoped to take advantage of the fact that King Juan Carlos and many government officials were scheduled to be outside of Madrid on the day of the planned coup and of the weekend tributes to Franco and Jose Antonio. Although the plot was discovered and an unknown number of officers placed under arrest, the annual celebration of juvenile terror in the streets of Madrid by these far-right groups reminded many political commentators here that Spain, as the Francoist tourist advertising had it, is still "different."

The discovery of the planned coup coincided with the annual demonstrations to commemorate the deaths of Franco and the 1930s fascist leader Jose Antonio. On Nov. 23, the government, which wanted to diffuse rightist protests of its inability to halt ETA's terrorist attacks, banned all public demonstrations for the remainder of the campaign.

Elections next spring.

The passage of the constitution clears the way for Spain's first municipal elections since the Republic, which will probably take place next spring. President Suarez must now choose either to submit himself to a vote of investiture in the parliament or to call new general elections.

Suarez has not yet made public his decision, and there is much talk of a possible coalition government with the Socialists with or without new elections, but at present it looks possible that he will call new elections, hoping that the recent threats from the far right will lead voters to choose his center-right party to safeguard recent democratic achievements. The Communists have argued that a "government of concentration," composed of the UCD, PSOE, and PCE, or a UCD-PSOE coalition government given Communist support, would provide guarantees against a return to an authoritarian Spanish regime.

Casey Blake is doing research in Spain by means of a fellowship from the Thomas J. Watson Foundation.

China/U.S.

Continued from page 3.

faced only a future in the countryside and when there were neither serious exams nor teachers with any authority, school children ceased studying and joined their older siblings in the streets. Boys began smoking by the sixth grade. There was an outburst of bicycle thefts, pickpocketing on buses, rumbles by gangs protecting their women and turf, and in one year a wave of school window smashings.

Though still tame by U.S. standards, to Chinese parents accustomed to juvenile obedience and complete safety in the streets, these crimes were threatening.

Other people were frightened by the capriciousness of justice during the decade. Senior bureaucrats and intellectuals were the principal targets, but the attacks went much further, with old crimes, including the sins of one's landlord or counterrevolutionary father and grandfathers, being dug up to consign whole families to

the countryside during the height of the 1966-68 tumult and in the years immediately following.

In factories, people skilled in political gab were appointed over experienced foremen, technicians and managers. Without discipline, young workers showed up late, took excessive sick leaves and generally slackened in their work efforts, earning the disgust of older workers who had grown up in a more spartan, work-committed age. The absence of pay increases for any but the youngest workers, the very ones perceived as being the least able workers, further intensified dissatisfaction.

It is this assortment of grievances that explains the popularity of China's present leadership and the swiftness with which it has shifted domestic policy. However, it should not blind us to many of the special features of China that remain. Major goals of the Cultural Revolution like mass health care and mass education persist as significant social policies.

Even while doctors are regaining auth-

ority and old hospital rules and regulations are being restored, the emphasis is still on preventive medicine supported by many urban clinics and a widespread network of rural barefoot doctors. Though more money is being spent on universities and research institutes, mass education is still being provided by primary schools in almost every village of any size.

While older workers, technicians, and bureaucrats are getting salary raises that were denied for many years, the emphasis in the 1977 raises was still on providing for lower-paid workers, while modest material bonuses have been restored, as well as piece rates in a few factories, the great majority of workers still are paid by time rate with promotion based primarily on seniority. Though revolutionary committees with worker representation have been abandoned, other forms of worker participation, including the Yugoslav model, are being considered. No longer subject to Peking's will, peasants have considerable autonomy.

Because the state loses money on grain sales, a good part of the technology now being acquired abroad consists of agricultural machinery, seeds, fertilizer, and pesticides supposed to accelerate the pace of agricultural growth and help reduce the gap in worker and peasant income.

The judicial system is being reestablished and a civil code rewritten and elaborated so that in the future people can have recourse to law and avoid the abuses of the last decade.

There is reason to be concerned about the future of China. Teng Hsiao-ping may yet lead China down the primrose path to "Soviet revisionism," or more likely to some replica of the Yugoslavian quasi-market state. But for now there is much special to the Chinese model of development that still deserves our attention. *William L. Parish is professor of sociology at the University of Chicago, specializing in Chinese social change. He is the co-author of Village and Family in Contemporary China.*

CAPITAL & LABOR: partners?

two classes — two views

VICTOR LEVANT

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Ken Firestone

Mary Beth Guinan

Charity Ends At Home.

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For a long time, blacks and women worked in their day care centers, hospitals and poverty programs, content to earn wages that even their clients would scorn. And then they were content no more. Perhaps the women's movement raised their consciousness or inflation reduced their buying power. Or maybe they just got plain fed up with the irony of helping people who were better off than themselves. Whatever the reasons, they joined the unions. And in Chicago, the earth moved.

The Catholic Church did not give this movement its blessing. The Archdiocese of Chicago runs Catholic Charities, one of the biggest social service organizations in the country. About 500 people work for Catholic Charities in programs ranging from foster care to day care. Many of them were being paid \$400 a month, the starting salary for people without a degree or experience. Degree positions weren't much better, starting at \$720 a month.

In January 1977, ten of these people met in an apartment and decided it would be a good idea if they attempted to unionize. They were very naive about unions. They didn't realize their attempt would trigger a concerted effort by the Catholic Church, professional union busters and Chicago's most powerful law firms to defeat them. They also didn't realize how close they would come to beating the powers-that-be.

War on poverty.

Four women who were deeply involved in the Catholic Charities' union movement discussed their impetus to organize. Two are black and two white. One of the blacks is a clerical worker and the three others are caseworkers. All asked that their identities remain confidential, explaining that they fear reprisals if management discovered they talked to the press. Martha, a white caseworker, is the spokesperson for the group. She has worked for Catholic Charities for five years and recalls the initial decision to unionize.

"First, you must understand that social service is a closed community," she says. "Everyone knows someone else. So we called some people at other agencies, like the Jewish Federation where unionization had recently taken place, and asked them what to do. They gave us the names of some unions, and we contacted them. That's contrary to the myth of the union going out and talking some dumb sucker into joining.

"At first we were really suspicious about unions. We didn't want to be taken over, to have people bossing us around. But we needed them. We were totally ignorant about where and when you could talk to people about the union.

"What we wanted was money. At most social service agencies, they start out paying pretty bad, but the corker here is that they start out really bad. Their idea of a raise is \$65 a year. They never put in cost of living increases. And there are no bennies like good medical insurance and workman's compensation. This thing is run by priests. They took the vow of poverty and expect us to do the same."

Martha and her friends began their war on poverty by talking to fellow employees about a union. The response was positive. In spring 1977, a search committee was formed to find a suitable union. They decided on Local 372 of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), whose local organizer was Mary Beth Guinan.

In the beginning...

During these early days of organizing, management seemed benign. Supervisors were friendly to pro-union employees, often helping them in their organizing efforts. Management made small concessions, increasing the amount of money caseworkers were reimbursed for gas and setting up a committee to study wages.

Yet if the pro-union people could have peered into the minds of management, they would have been worried. Management's attitude toward unionization

was anything but tolerant. Don Kent, a layman who is executive director of Catholic Charities had a hard time understanding what a third party, "a traditional union organization, could do for our staff," he says. "Why would our people go to an outsider? What does Guinan know about Catholic Charities? Zip."

Over the next few months, the union garnered support until it claimed 130 official supporters. A majority of workers had signed cards requesting union representation. The union sent a letter to management requesting voluntary recognition and asking for an election. Management ignored the letter, and the pro-union people filed for recognition with the National Labor Relations Board.

Then all hell broke loose.

Mary Beth Guinan had seen it all before. An attractive, middle-aged woman, she's been organizing in the social service field for ten years and knew that management would not remain docile when its workers made a serious attempt at unionization. Sitting in SEIU headquarters, surrounded by posters depicting union struggles with stirring quotes from union heroes, her Irish eyes blaze when she remembers what happened.

"They brought in the union busters," she says. "They're called management consultants, and the firm they brought in was Modern Management Methods. When they came in, everything else came to a halt. For three months, supervisors spent every day in training with the consultant. The training was basic behavior modification, an *est* type of thing.

"Let's say I'm the management consultant and you're a supervisor. I sit down with you and say, 'Do you know people unionize because they can't communicate with you? You're insensitive to their needs.' By the time I get done, you feel like a piece of shit. You feel like your workers hate you and that if the union comes in, any thread of relationship between you and your people will be destroyed. And I'll make you see that the agency will be destroyed and you're the one responsible.

"Then I do a profile of all the people who work for you. You have to report to me and tell me what they say to you and what you say to them. For instance, I ask you about John and you say you don't know about him. I respond, 'You mean to say you don't know him? How do you expect to be an effective supervisor?'

"So you try to seduce your workers. It's kind of awkward, like asking them what their major is. Each time you report to me, you say whether that person has made a commitment for or against the union.

"Finally you can report that there are no more undecideds in your group. They're either working night and day to save the agency from the barbarian invaders or else they're solid pro-union Communists.

"You get all your people who are anti-union to sign a petition that you bring to me. Then you don't have to see me anymore. I send you a memo congratulating you on your sensitivity and take you out to dinner. It's just like *est*. Constant harassment goes into making supervisors fight to the death to keep the union out."

Ex-leftist union busters.

Catholic Charities was not unique in its recruitment of management consultants. It is a common practice among union-plagued organizations that can afford their prices. Guinan claims Modern Management Methods cost Catholic Charities \$500 a day. It was money well spent.

A management consultant firm generally has a computer that can spew out research on any union that has been causing problems. They have information on every strike the union has been involved in, every complaint made against the union, every instance in which a union member was harassed for not paying dues. A sharp management consultant slants this information to portray the union as the slimiest thing to crawl out of the lagoon since the black creature.

One would expect these management consultants to be cloned from the repressive, right-wing prototype. But contrary to expectations, management consultants tend to be bright, young ex-leftists who were involved with community organizing or the anti-war movement in college. The organizing and propaganda skills they absorbed from these activities are perfectly suited to busting unions.

How do leftists get drawn into such a seemingly reactionary profession? Guinan explains it this way:

"Radicals in college become sophisticated and cynical. They become attracted to the wheeling and dealing at the top. And if you're extremely left wing, you can be very anti-union. You can believe they're corrupt; that George Meany is ripping off working people; that unions screw blacks and women."

Don Kent, of course, does not view management consultants as union busters. He prefers to describe their purpose with bureaucratic buzz words: "restructuring," "informational input," and "management competence."

"The management consultant's practical purpose was to advise us on how we could fully inform our staff on the issues before them," he explains. "And also, a union tells you that you've got problems. It's like you come home and find your wife on a date with another man. You've got problems, right? The management firm was retained to find out how we could better manage Catholic Charities and communicate with our people."

The National Labor Relations Board.

In addition to using consultants, management relied on a variety of our resources to prevent unionization. For many months, the NLRB was a useful ally. Unionization attempts are futile if the NLRB refuses to take jurisdiction. Taking jurisdiction means that they acknowledge the union's right to organize under the law and authorize a representation election.

Until 1974, the NLRB did not take jurisdiction over charitable institutions because the law states that they may take jurisdiction only when an organization has an impact on interstate commerce. The words, "impact on interstate commerce," of course, can be interpreted in a variety of ways. The way the NLRB initially chose was not favorable to the union. The NLRB is generally composed of two Democrats, two Republicans, and a chairperson appointed by the President.

When Guinan first appealed to the Board, Gerald Ford was President. He had appointed Betty Murphy as chairperson, who, in Guinan's words, was "a rabid Republican." Murphy felt the board had no right to take jurisdiction. This decision not only affected Catholic Charities' employees but social service workers at Trilogy Workshop, The Young Women's Christian Association, and the Chicago School and Workshop for the Retarded.

Despite the NLRB position, Guinan continued to organize, knowing that Ford wouldn't be in power forever.

And management no longer twiddled their thumbs and waited for this temporary insanity to pass. With the consultants as their battering ram, management attempted to convince workers that the union might favor one group over another. They attempted to pit blacks against whites, clericals against professionals, and novice workers against old-timers.

Paranoia ran rampant. Bernice, a black secretary who was pro-union, says she "got so paranoid, I couldn't stand to see a group of people talking together. I just knew they were talking about me."

Divide and conquer.

Management went for each group's Achilles Heel with deadly precision. Black social workers were implicitly threatened with a loss of their white collar status. Guinan explains that management said to the blacks, "Look, I can give you upward mobility, and the union can't." So they gave blacks titles, gave them other people to supervise and then reminded them, "If you're in the union, you can't be part of management anymore because you're only a worker."

"Management appealed to the white caseworker's sense of compassion. They appealed to the nun instinct: If the union gets in, we'll all hate each other. There's nothing white women hate more than the idea that there will be some conflict.

"Now the older woman at the agency have the most to gain from the union because their pension sucks. But these women will just hang in there for pensions. The idea of change terrified them.

"With the young people, management hinted that the union wouldn't help them, only people with seniority, and that when it came time for someone to be laid off, they'd go first."

The updates sent to Catholic Charities employees are textbook examples of pretzel logic—how the truth can be twisted into shapes that resemble the truth but are still subtle distortions of it. Their ostensible purpose was to keep employees informed about the status of the unionization attempt. Yet their anti-union tone is hard to disguise. Here is an excerpt from Update #4:

"A number of questions have arisen about the Service Employees International Union and what it can really do for Catholic Charities' employees. Since these questions and their answers affect every eligible voter, I would like to share them with you. Q: What can the SEIU guarantee Catholic Charities' employees? A: Nothing! Wages, hours and working conditions are negotiable. Therefore, no union is able to guarantee anything. Q: If the union can't guarantee anything,

why do they make so many promises? A: The union would like you to believe they can cause change by merely saying it will happen. However, their promises are merely campaign propaganda and cannot be believed."

During this time, management was careful not to do anything that might be construed as illegal. No overt threats were made to pro-union employees. Management consultants were not allowed to talk to any Catholic Charities' workers except the supervisory staff.

The management consultants' effectiveness can be gauged by the number of people who switched from pro-union to anti-union status before the election. Martha and her friends remember how their support gradually eroded. They remember how rumors mysteriously started and spread, frightening people away from the union.

"People started talking about how CETA workers would lose their jobs if there were a strike," Cindy, a white caseworker, says. "The management never said it directly, but somebody started it."

According to Jody, a black caseworker, management directed a subtle smear campaign against union supporters.

"They tried to make it look like there was something personally wrong with people who wanted the union," she says. "They implied we were emotionally unstable. That we were just so unhappy about so many things."

Jody adds that management attempted to make pro-union employees feel guilty. And if there's anything a well-meaning social worker responds to, it's guilt. The constant refrain sung by supervisors and the updates was, "What will happen to your poor clients if you ever go on strike?"

It was a legitimate question. And there was a legitimate answer. The turnover at Catholic Charities is very high. Jody claims it is 36 percent a year. And the people who leave, she adds, are the most competent employees. The lifers who just go through the motions are the ones who don't leave. Martha insists that competent workers would remain if there were a union to air their grievances and provide them with a decent wage.

During the union campaign, both union supporters and management pulled out all the stops to gain votes. Union newsletters contained strident emotional appeals from employees, decrying the sins of management and praising the good works of the union.

Management's tactics were less emotional and more pragmatic. They tried to get the foster care department excluded from voting in the union election. If they were successful, the potential power of the union would be severely weakened. Management claimed there was an "operational nexus" between themselves and the state of Illinois. In other words, they insisted the foster care department was controlled by the state's Department of Children and Family Services. According to Guinan, management tried to use this claim as a bargaining wedge, saying they would permit a union election if the foster care department were excluded. Union supporters, however, refused to make this sacrifice. The NLRB eventually ruled that the foster care department was entitled to participate in the election, citing the fact that Catholic Charities controls the department's hiring, firing and salaries.

More decisions favorable to the union were on the way. Jimmy Carter had been elected President, and he appointed a new head of the NLRB. In spring 1978, the NLRB took jurisdiction over Catholic Charities and a variety of other social service agencies. Union elections followed, and the union won in most of the agencies. They did not win at Catholic Charities. In May 1978, the election was held and the union received only 59 votes, far short of the majority needed.

Why the union lost.

Why did the union lose? Looking back, Martha and her co-workers believe they were too nice, too clean. They didn't know what they were up against. As Jody says, "We were the holy ones." None of them forsee another unionization attempt in the near future, saying, "We're too burned out from the last one." But the story isn't over. Not if it's like the one Guinan has seen played out time after time.

Though she admits management consultants make formidable heavies, they are not invulnerable. When the union first started organizing workers in hospitals, they were successful about 65 percent of the time in their union elections. When the hospitals started using management consultants, that figure fell to 40 percent. Yet Guinan maintains that management consultants are much less effective the second time around. And usually there is a second time. After the first defeat, there is a cooling out period where workers resign themselves to their situation. And then familiar problems recur: paltry raises; an unjustified firing, a holiday is dropped. A second unionization attempt begins. And since they've been burned once, their resolve is strengthened by that remembered flame.

"In new jurisdictions like social service agencies, the majority of workers are women and they are naive about unions," Guinan says. "A woman who works in a social service agency never really thought of her-



New president Hazen Griffen

Union Ousts Remote Head

Since the certification election at Catholic Charities, SEIU Local 372 has had an election for local officers that tapped deep membership dissatisfaction with incumbent president Robert Agnes. A slate headed by then executive vice-president Hazen Griffen and organizer Mary Beth Guinan swept all 18 elected offices.

The Griffen and Guinan campaign was the result of long-standing dissatisfaction with the union. While 372 has been organizing human service agencies such as Catholic Charities for several years, 80 percent of its 5,500 members are in retail trade, most of them working within a few blocks of each other in Chicago's Loop area. The local also represents branch stores and several small factories.

Hazen Griffen, the new president-elect, (Mary Beth Guinan is the new executive vice-president), became an officer of Local 372 by merging his own small SEIU local into it in 1976. Prior to that he had organized for the Hotel and Restaurant Workers, the Teamsters, and his own "Local One, Independent." Griffen is widely known in left-labor circles in Chicago and was active in labor anti-war movements.

Robert Agnes, defeated president of 372, is a

self as a worker, but when a couple of holidays get dropped, she gets pissed off. Still, they don't think of themselves as working stiff. The first time they want to organize, they figure they'll just go to the yellow pages, call a union that will get them their cost of living increase. When the union tries to tell them about union busters, they say, "Oh no, my supervisor is a wonderful person and would never do anything like that." Finally, the day before the election, they realize they never made the calls they said they would; they didn't set up a committee they were supposed to set up. And on the day of the election, after they lose, they finally realize that management is "them" and we're "us."

"The second time around, they understand the union better. They understand about strikes. They're not virgins anymore. The union is something they build for the future, a way for them to have dignity. We don't have to beat the consultants. All we can do is introduce ourselves to the workers and teach them some skills. Once the workers know what to do, the consultant's tactics fall flat."

Guinan and pro-union workers at Catholic Charities insist that if management had initially recognized the union, they would have saved both money and time. Without the opposition of management, unions often cannot maintain their energy. Many unions that are initially gung ho become complacent once a few of their demands are met.

Consider what happened after the Catholic Charities' union lost the election. A \$70 a month raise was given to employees, the result of a suit Catholic Charities won against the state of Illinois. The raise was far more than the union ever dreamed of demanding. Why, then, does the management of social service organizations oppose unionization?

Don Kent gives one side of the story.

member of the SEIU International Executive Board. While SEIU occasionally has "insurgencies from above" where the International topples a local officer, it is unusual for an Executive Board member to be opposed, much less beaten.

Agnes was both secretive and inept. He made intense efforts to keep the older members of the union, from the Wieboldts chain and Marshall Field's downtown store, separate from newly organized or merged members. Local 372 had no local newsletter in which members might learn of the activities of other units, and local meetings were sparsely attended.

Behind Agnes' wall of secrecy, the membership grew increasingly dissatisfied. As Griffen said, "We in fact did not have a union in some of the places." Many members complained that the union might as well not exist.

At Wieboldts, which was organized in the '40s with Agnes as local president most of the years, newly hired employees can make more than veteran workers because the contract has no seniority clause, no pay standards and no job ladders.

Service hardly existed. "You'd get grievances, turn them over to the business agent and they'd forget about them," said former Wieboldts chief steward Steve Ruddy. "You would see Agnes once a year," he said, "and the business agent hasn't been around since the election."

Ruddy resigned last March as chief steward after a particularly galling instance of Agnes' remoteness and indifference. The Wieboldts contract provided for renegotiation if health insurance costs increased (the health plan is contributory). But when Blue Cross announced a rate increase Agnes let the reopener period pass, and the members bore the full burden. Agnes is on Blue Cross' board of directors, and mentioned it prominently in his campaign literature. Steve Ruddy was elected third vice-president on the Griffen slate.

The campaign in 372 was dirty. Rumors circulated that Hazen Griffen was a "black militant," a gangster, or a communist. Agnes' literature referred to mysterious "outsiders," and at the local's nominating meeting administration forces permitted no discussion or debate of their election rules, ruled the opposition forces out of order and moved repeatedly to adjourn. "It was a chaotic meeting. Some of our people had never been to one of these meetings before," said 372 member Ron Rohde, "and people came away solidly in Griffen's corner."

Ruddy sees the election results less as an endorsement of Griffen than as a repudiation of the incumbent. "People didn't know Griffen. But people were so disgusted with Agnes, I think if I ran I could have gotten elected," he said.

Griffen agrees. The election "was not a vote for us as much as it was against them," he said. He forsee a period of intense internal organizing to build a steward system for enforcement of the present contracts and to strengthen the union to win better ones. The Wieboldts contract is up in May of 1979.

If the local can build on its present strengths and reorganize its weak points Griffen sees its future in two areas: retail workers in the Loop, who are largely unorganized; and social service workers, an area in which the local has won landmark NLRB decisions, if few members.

"I'm not sure we resisted the union," he says. "That's a rather inappropriate term. We simply gave employees all the facts about what a union would entail. The employees voted to resist the union, not us."

There is no denying Kent's last statement. Yet Kent and the rest of management did not approve of the union and whether "resist" is the proper word is a matter of semantics. What is intriguing is why they didn't want the union. As the \$70 raise indicates, they are concerned with their employees' economic situation. Perhaps, as Kent claims, before Catholic Charities won their suit against the state, the money for raises simply wasn't there. Another explanation might be that the word "strike" literally strikes fear into the hearts of administrators everywhere.

"I do know that this union has struck other agencies," Kent asserts. "In January they struck a facility for blind and deaf adults. To me, that's negative. If you look at the union by-laws, there's a penalty if you cross a picket line. I think it was absolutely honest and above-board for us to point out these penalties. I would consider a strike very bad for our clients."

"And another negative of the union is that our people would have to pay dues. Guinan's not going to work for zip. And you know, Guinan could have promised them anything, as might have been done. She can promise them anything, but can't deliver except for a strike."

"It's not over at Catholic Charities," Guinan says. "A time will come...you know, losing the election simply meant they weren't ready for collective bargaining. They would have really freaked out if there were ever a strike vote. You see, the people weren't ready to say 'I have a built-in, God-given right to representation, to make demands on my employer.' When people accept that concept, then they'll have a union."

EDITORIAL

Better late than never on human rights

Thirty years ago, Dec. 9-10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly, with the strong support of the U.S. delegation, adopted the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Genocide Convention, a response to the Nazi Holocaust, obligates ratifying governments to forbid acts tending to the physical or cultural destruction of a national, ethnic, religious, or racial group, and to punish their perpetrators. Eighty-three other nations have ratified the Convention, but not the U.S., in spite of support for its ratification by every President since 1948.

American black leaders like W.E.B. DuBois and Paul Robeson, and more recently Native American leaders, have appealed to the Genocide Convention in bringing the abuses suffered by their peoples to the attention of world opinion. Southern racist and anti-Native American interests in alliance with "anti-communist" crusaders, have always been able to prevent the mustering of the two-thirds majority vote required for Senate ratification.

In 1966, the Human Rights Declaration was codified into two basic covenants, each since ratified by over 50 countries, including Britain, Canada, the Soviet Union, and China but, again, not by the U.S.

The Covenant on Civil and Political Rights obligates governments to protect the rights of self-determination; freedom of speech, association, religion, and travel; legal redress and fair trial; privacy; voting and participation in public affairs; trade union organization and membership. It commits governments to forbid discrimination on grounds of race, ethnic origin, religion, opinion, property or birth status; torture, cruel or inhuman punishment; arbitrary arrest; slavery; imprisonment for debt.

The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights commits governments to work to establish the right of every person to an adequate material and spiritual standard of living, including the right to employment, safe and healthy working conditions, collective bargaining, social security, health care, adequate nutrition, and education.

In October 1977, President Carter signed the two 11-year-old covenants at the UN in New York, and last February he submitted them to the Senate for ratification, along with the Genocide Convention. In early December, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of their UN adoption, the President again urged their ratification.

To a President who declares human rights to be "the soul of our foreign policy," and "the very soul of our sense of nationhood," the continuing failure of the U.S. to ratify the convention and covenants is a distinct embarrassment. It is also an embarrassment to all the American people.

In his anniversary address to 250 representatives of human rights organizations gathered at the White House, President Carter forthrightly acknowledged the violation of "the most basic human rights" of blacks and women in the nation's past, and he emphasized that "the struggle for full human rights for all Americans—black, brown, and white, male and female, rich and poor—is far from over."

Senate ratification of the accords will add impetus to that struggle both at home and abroad. It will strengthen their impact as an international standard by which governments and their societies—socialist and capitalist—may be judged and held to ac-

The U.S. still has not ratified two 11-year-old UN human rights pacts.

count by the people. It will make the U.S. something less of a double-standard preacher and something more of a partner with other nations—in international forums and judicial bodies established under the accords' auspices—in restraining violations and working toward the realization of human rights.

Though it remains to be seen whether he follows through with the same determination that accomplished the ratification of the Panama Canal treaties, the President is to be congratulated for consistency in urging the Senate to ratify the genocide and human rights accords. In this respect, he is doing little more than previous Presidents since Truman, but unlike his predecessors, he has himself played a leading role in creating a climate of international and domestic opinion that



will make it extremely difficult for the Senate this time to refuse to ratify.

Nevertheless, it is sobering to think that the U.S. is just now getting around to a formal commitment to principles of basic

human rights, fully thirty years after its own government urged it upon the world and the UN adopted it. Must such regression always be "the very soul" of American progress?

New bill to rescue reporter rights

On the recommendation of a special Justice Department Task Force, the Carter administration has proposed federal legislation that would restore protections of the press endangered by the Supreme Court decision last May in *Zurcher vs. Stanford Daily*, and in the 1972 *Caldwell* case. (*ITT* editorial, Dec. 6.)

In the *Stanford* case, the Court held that the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution did not bar warranted police searches of innocent third parties' premises for evidence relating to a crime, and that the First Amendment did not exempt journalists or newspaper offices from such searches. The Carter administration at that time agreed with the Court's interpretation. But the Court also stipulated that legislation could establish protection against such searches.

The proposed legislation would prohibit not only federal officers but also state and local police from conducting such searches and require instead resort to a subpoena in seeking evidence relating to a crime. A subpoena involves advance notice and specification of evidence sought, and permits the subpoenaed party to contest the demand for evidence in court. The warranted search authorizes police to appear without warning and conduct an indiscriminate search of desks, files and premises.

The administration's proposed legislation would not protect all citizens, but only journalists, free-lance writers, publishers, scholars, and others preparing materials for publication related in any way to interstate commerce.

Over a dozen bills restricting the use of search warrants are already before Congress. The administration's proposal takes a middle course between those that would apply the subpoena protection to all citizens who were innocent third parties, and those that would so protect only members of the organized press. It would not protect writers who were designated by police as criminal suspects. Without further definition of "crime" and "suspect," the bill still leaves a rather large loop-hole through which enemies of the press may wield intimidating and suppressive powers.

A writer, for example, might be designated by police as a "criminal suspect" for activities relating to demonstrations

or strikes where the "crime" would be alleged to have been "inciting to riot."

Similarly the proposed bill fails to clarify whether espionage or national security laws could be used against writers in possession of "secret" documents and accused by the government of being "criminal suspects."

The proposed bill also leaves unclear whether the protection against searches would extend to members of the non-print media. And it leaves the subpoena process wide open to the abuses sustained by the Supreme Court in the *Farber* case.

All citizens, not just journalists and those involved in publishing, should have the subpoena protection when they are innocent third parties. That right inheres in the First and Fourth Amendments. Now that the Supreme Court, with the adminis-

tration's concurrence, has denied constitutional protection of that right, it is essential to have legislative protection. The administration's proposed bill gives back less than the Court took away, and its terms need both extension and greater precision to close loop-holes and clearly prohibit government violation of citizen rights.

But we can agree with Jack C. Landau, director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, and with John Shattuck, Washington (DC) ACLU director, that the proposed bill offers an encouraging impetus for corrective legislation. The task now is to see that Congress perfects it into legislation that restores the First and Fourth Amendment rights that the Supreme Court has whittled away.

Carter succeeds in painting his program as anti-inflation

The Democratic Party mid-term conference in Memphis (*ITT*, Dec. 20, 1978) marked the continuing erosion of the corporate-liberal consensus, if not its final demise. It is too early to say that it portends a Democratic Party split-up in the 1980 elections. At this time, it is safer to say that Sen. Edward Kennedy's rousing opposition to President Carter's policies is more likely to keep the left within the party fold. If so, Kennedy is serving the cause of the party's electoral unity with his loyal, if eloquent, opposition, and hence the cause of the Carter Democrats.

But polarization will continue as more and more constituencies find their interests in deep conflict with the corporate priorities the President steadfastly upholds.

In the past, most of the labor movement, and especially its left, stood with the Democratic President for reform policies against the conservative minority within the party. The difference now is that labor, and not only its left, finds itself in opposition to a Democratic President who is allied with a corporate-oriented conservative majority within the party. This is a new situation for labor and its allies, forcing them into a reappraisal of their traditional party ties and electoral

political strategies.

But the Carter Democrats hold the whip hand as long as they can succeed in identifying their pro-business program with "fighting inflation" and in portraying social spending and labor's interests as "inflationary." Labor and its allies ought not let the Carter Democrats get away with that flim-flam.

The Carter administration's arms budget is inflationary; its permissiveness toward corporate mergers, pricing and profit power is inflationary; its energy policy is inflationary; its defense of the privately insured medical system is inflationary; its interest-rate policy is inflationary; its planned economic slowdown with higher unemployment and lower economic productivity is inflationary. Carter's policies are not "anti-inflationary," but pro-corporate.

Until labor and its allies get that message across to the people, and offer a democratic alternative to the corporate organization of the economy that can bring more people into the electoral arena, the Kennedys and the Frasers will win the cheers at conferences, but the Carters and Browns, the Fords and Reagans will win the elections—and so will the Lords Corporate.

LETTERS

PYRRHIC DEFEAT

THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE Association has just announced the results of its presidential election: Prof. Warren Miller of the University of Michigan won with 3,392 votes against my 1,347 votes. Recalling that I am the first avowed Marxist to run for this office, does this mean that 28 percent of the members of what may be our most conservative academic association favor social revolution? Probably—and unfortunately—not.

But it does seem to suggest that a surprisingly large number of political scientists recognize that the class struggle extends into academia and that they are not afraid to accept Marxist leadership in defense of their interests as professionals and workers.

Both my nomination for the office of president and the vote I received also indicate—along with much else that is happening in the universities—that Marxism has become a growing and respected challenge to prevailing orthodoxies in practically every discipline. I take this as an extremely hopeful sign for the future of American education and indeed for our society. The struggle goes on.

Bertell Ollman
Dept. of Politics, N.Y.U.
New York, N.Y.

DON'T TELL ME NOT TO BE ANGRY

WHILE THERE IS MUCH TRUTH IN Randall Risener's article on the assassinations of Mayor George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk in San Francisco (*ITT*, Dec. 6, 1978), he fails to grasp the complexity of Dan White's

political stance in a city where gay people are not a quiet minority. Tension among the three men was as much a fuse as any of the economic issues.

White was elected from a homophobic area of the city on a campaign of "eradicating" (White's word) the forces that he and his constituents saw as threatening their lifestyles. As Risener noted, he was the only Supervisor consistently to vote against pro-gay legislation. He was a supporter of the Briggs Initiative and a spokesperson for the Anita Bryant sentiment in town. ("This one's for Anita!" yelled a knifer last year in White's district as the attacker left a gay man dead in the arms of a friend.)

Moscone and Milk are dead because they would not label murder (physical or spiritual) of gay people All-American.

Gays all around the world are beginning to echo the words of James Baldwin in '63: "Don't tell me not to be angry! My people are dying!"

-Rico Flores
Chicago

WORKING CLAMS

THANKS FOR THE ACKNOWLEDGMENT that the Connecticut Clamshell is making headway in the struggle to build a labor/environmental alliance (*ITT*, Nov. 29, 1978). Our work so far is nothing to write a cover story about, but it is far from embryonic. At this state's most recent AFL-CIO convention, the Bridgeport steelworkers' Local 7528 introduced an anti-nuclear, pro-alternative resolution that received about 40 percent of the floor vote in a tightly controlled atmosphere.

Lobbying for the resolution were individual members of about a dozen unions, including USWA, AFT, IBEW and

the IAM, to name a few. Our next step is to have other locals pass the resolution and bring it back to the '79 convention.

In Connecticut, the Clam Labor committee is made up of folks who see themselves as active unionists rather than environmentalists. Our network is based on a previous history of working together on issues from union democracy to socialist organizing. This may be why we've been initially successful in making that essential link between our two movements, a link that has to start with active rank and file involvement.

-Steve Thornton
Clam Labor Committee
Hartford, Conn.

WATCH YOUR STEP

SOMETHING DISTURBS ME IN THE GENERALLY excellent reportage and commentary on Jonesville in *IN THESE TIMES*. To say that Peoples Temple converts "underwent a process similar in form to that used by ... the Moonies or the Children of God" is to propound a dangerous partial truth. There are some convergences between indoctrination processes in Jonesville and those in other relatively authoritarian religious or political movements, but the degree of "coercive persuasion" processes in Jonesville may render this community unique.

The tendency to equate various "cults" and "pseudo-religions" with the Peoples Temple is sloppy, and poses a distinct threat to civil liberties. "Moonies" witnessing on the street are much less "isolated" than Dad's Children in Guyana; moreover, beatings by Karate experts, water torture, and sensory deprivation chambers have no counterparts in better known dissident religious sects.

"Brainwashing" is simply a metaphor. To "wash" a brain is like making someone bleed with a "cutting" comment. The implication that converts to deviant movements are not merely irrational or deluded, but are acting and believing involuntarily is particularly objectionable. Social science cannot determine the presence or absence of "free will" except in extreme situations in-

volving drugging or overt physical coercion. Individual rights have traditionally been viewed as presupposing some sort of prior rationality and responsibility; consequently, to define persons as acting or thinking involuntarily is implicitly to legitimate their deprivation of rights and liberties. Non-rational or non-autonomous actors are generally viewed as fair game for therapeutic coercion "for their own good." Court ordered deprogramming has declined since 1977 but still exists and is likely to undergo a resurgence in the current climate.

A law professor interviewed in *U.S. News* has called for the establishment of legal "cooling off periods" during which converts would be forcibly separated from their movement and required to seek counselling. Such methods would not be restricted to religious movements. Sooner or later the left will be targeted, since, as your editorial has pointed out, there are convergences between authoritarian "cults" and certain tendencies on the left. Be a bit more sensitive to civil liberties in your coverage of "cults" and a bit more wary of metaphors such as "brainwashing."

-Thomas Robbins
New York

SWEDEN & SOCIALISM

MAY I ADD A FOOTNOTE TO THE comments on Sweden and its qualifications as a socialist society? (*ITT*, Oct. 25, Dec. 13, 1978.) First, 90 percent of all blue collar workers and 70 percent of white collar are union members. Second, there is a wage spread of only 30 percent between highest and lowest paid blue collar workers—which is the best egalitarianism in the world. This is not true of Swedish white collar workers—but the union goal is greater wage or salary equality.

Swedish socialists openly complain about the 15 rich families who still have too much control over the nation's finances—but strong unions and a strong consumer cooperative movement keeps Swedish capitalism tamed. And Swedish workers are the best paid workers in the industrialized world.

All of this is helped along by a study circle movement where ideas percolate up and down in Swedish society—a true blend of political freedom and economic justice.

-Franklin Wallick
Editor, UAW Washington Report
Washington, D.C.

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Louis Aragon, 'John Heartfield and Revolutionary Beauty'

Kenneth Courtis-Smith, 'The Political Art of Klaus Staack' (with over 60 reproductions)

'The Image as Weapon: Interview with, and Photomontages by, Christer Themp-tander'

Gregory Renault, 'Over the Rainbow: Dialect and Ideology in *The Wizard of Oz*'

Alberto Asor Rosa, 'Gramsci and Italian Cultural History'

Stefan Heym, 'The Indifferent Man' (short story)

Heinz Brüggemann, 'Bertolt Brecht and Karl Korsch: Questions of Living and Dead Elements Within Marxism'

Richard Albrecht and Matthias Mitzschke, 'Bert Brecht: "Bolshevik Without a Party Book" or *Petit-Bourgeois Intellectual*?'

Thomas McGrath, 'Some Notes on Walter Lowenfels'

'The Spanish Civil War: A Portrait in Verse, with Photographs by Hans Namuth and Georg Reisner'

David Craven, 'Towards a Newer Virgil: Mondrian De-mythologized'

MANNING MARABLE

FROM THE GRASSROOTS

Differing black views of Jonestown tragedy

THE SAD AND TRAGIC JONESTOWN events have generated a rash of popular journalistic accounts which scavenge the remains of the battlefield. Two paperback accounts are already in mass circulation. "Guyana Massacre: The Eyewitness Account," was written by Washington Post reporter Charles A. Krause, with the assistance of two Post editors. San Francisco Chronicle reporter Ron Jarvers dictated "The Suicide Cult" from his hospital bed, recovering from gunshot wounds. CBS plans to air a documentary, and the other networks are investigating the possibilities of a made-for-television movie on Jonestown. Publishing company G.P. Putnam's Sons has plans for a hardback volume on Jones.

News items about all the other publicized religious cults found their way again into the newspapers.

Emphasizing the "cultish" aspects of the Peoples Temple skirts pivotal questions generated by the incident—namely, what did the Peoples Temple represent within the context of black culture and black urban politics? What was the ideological persuasion of Jim Jones' theology that would force so many black men and women to slaughter their children and then commit suicide?

Hidden from most of the front pages were the real political connections of



Jones. Contrary to his so-called "Marxist" image, Jones was just another element of the Bay Area's liberal political activities, such as organizing on behalf of Angela Davis. But interestingly, as Jones himself became more paranoid and terrorized his followers sexually, he became an avid member of the political establishment. In 1975, he delivered several thousand votes which allowed liberal Democrat George Moscone to win the San Francisco mayoralty race. Gov. Jerry Brown visited the Peoples Temple and courted Jones for his support. In 1976, Walter Mondale asked the good Reverend to visit with him on his private airplane. Even Rosalynn Carter dined with Jones at the Stanford Court Hotel, and wrote to him later that "[She] enjoyed being with you during the campaign."

There were as many theories for the massacre in the black community as there were estimates for the number of people

who were slaughtered. George Robinson, the black author of *Metanoia Conversion*, insisted that "the tragedy in Guyana is an example of how ignorant blacks worship and the slave mentality of blacks who will do anything the white man says...." Robinson argued in a speech at the Guiding Light Bible Center in Atlanta last month that the suicides "can happen again to blacks in America because religion is the haven for theft, rape, corruption, exploitation and murder... and [because] whites copy doctrines and methods used by blacks like Father Divine to misuse blacks."

In a similar vein, some black intellectuals point out that the peculiar, transient cultural terrain of California's black community was the pivotal contributing factor. Columbia University anthropologist Elliott Skinner states that California blacks "don't have roots to church structures..." Black followers of Jones were "looking for a messiah [and] a New Jerusalem."

In the San Francisco Bay Area, many black community leaders and elected officials were forced to account for their longstanding support of the Peoples Temple and its leader. The Rev. Cecil Williams, pastor of San Francisco's Glide Memorial Church, justified many of the previous activities of the bi-racial congregation. "Any evangelist who comes to San Francisco and tells people he's going to take care of their ills is bound to draw a full house," he stated to the *Sacramento Observer*. Jones and his congregation ran a nursery school, provided medical care for the sick and had lodgings for the elderly.

Influential Bay Area newspaper editor Dr. Carlton Goodlett argued similarly that any condemnation of the Peoples Temple had to be balanced by the congregation's positive activities, such as "[taking] prostitutes and pimps" off the streets, "restoring them to respectability." Responding to Dr. Goodlett's statements, black community leader Terry Francois charged that the editor had been less than candid in his assessment of Jonestown and the Peoples Temple. Francois and his supporters subsequently picketed the offices of Dr. Goodlett's newspaper in protest.

Throughout the plethora of instant analysis and commentaries, few have commented on the philosophical dimensions of the massacre. There is something truly frightening and awesome about a man who would aspire to be God. It is easy to isolate the sociological symptoms for group control and manipulation; it is another thing to grapple with our own efforts to understand the unthinkable; to comprehend the power of irrationality.

We must return to the pages of literature for figures similar to Jones: Doctor Faust, perhaps; certainly the ancient myth of Sisyphus, who was condemned to the underworld by avenging gods for defying their will. In the example of Jim Jones, we observe a man who suffered an inner hell from the fanatic urgency of his message reinforced by the sheep-like obedience of his flock. Unlike Sisyphus, with Jones' final descent into the underworld, he decided to take over 900 faithful souls with him.

The destruction of the Peoples Temple will continue to create bizarre problems. Since the church's net worth is estimated at over \$10 million, government officials are investigating the possibility of charging the estate for the \$2 million it cost for retrieving the dead from the jungles. Insurance companies may soon be claiming that all their life insurance policies with Jones' victims are void because of the suicides—but the families of victims may call for double-indemnity payments, because the deaths could be considered murder.

Reports circulate that Jones' surviving supporters may initiate a "Last Stand," a plot to assassinate journalists and ex-members who have criticized the church. Psychiatrists believe that some of the survivors of the mass suicide may take their own lives months from now, suffering from a twisted feeling of guilt. We have not heard the last of the Rev. Jim Jones and his errant followers. Others like him will doubtless take his place within the black community.

Manning Marable is professor of history at the University of San Francisco. He is associate fellow of the Institute of the Black World, Atlanta, Ga.

JEFF HENIG

Marion Barry's election: Is anyone watching?

TEN YEARS AGO MARION BARRY WAS A DASHIKI-WEARING "militant." Columnists Evans and Novak referred to the SNCC organizer as a "radical...arrested...when far left demonstrators stormed the Capitol." They called him "tough" and "intransigent." Today Marion Barry is the mayor-elect of Washington, D.C., twelfth in population among the nation's cities and forty-fourth among its states. ¶There are some insights to be gleaned from considering the implications of the Barry victory. ¶Progressive elements seem to be adopting a stance of cynicism and self-restraint in responding to the sprinkling of (minor) victories in the recent elections. But for the left to underplay the significance of victories like Barry's would be self-defeating.

A "wait-and-see" strategy on the part of D.C. activists is self-defeating. It robs the left of the chance to claim a rightful victory, and the mental and emotional rewards that such a victory could bring. It's understandable that D.C. activists, who have found their most potent organizing issue in the battle against housing displacement, would be leery of premature celebration. Barry's courtship of downtown interests during his primary campaign raised eyebrows among local progressives who preferred to rally behind an unambiguous champion in the skirmish between the neighborhoods and the eagerly expanding central business district. But while these progressive elements in D.C. are probably wise to caution their payches against the pain risked by inflated expectations, overcaution carries its own emotional costs.

In these lean years the left should learn to take its victories when they come. Concern about Barry's backsliding notwithstanding, his narrow and surprising victory in the September Democratic primary marked a clear and positive choice. The alternatives, ideological and stylistic, were clearly etched.

Walter Washington, the incumbent, represented the option of government by a genial, somewhat flabby, patronage-fueled machine. Sterling Tucker, the city council chairman and first choice of the downtown interests at the time, offered the alternative of a crisp, cool professionalism—government by technocrat.

Barry, in this company, represented a choice for a more dynamic, earthy, and human government. In his role as chairman of the D.C. city council's Finance and Revenue Committee, moreover, Barry took part in the formulation of the city's aggressive regulation of housing

speculation, condominium conversions, and rent increases. Barry played the lead at some times, the moderator at others.

A stand-offish, wait-and-see stance among Washington's progressives is self-defeating in a second, more significant sense as well. The ultimate course of the Barry administration is yet to be determined. It will be shaped, to a great extent, by the pull and tug of political pressures by mobilized and demanding interest groups. In spite of impressions that Barry had evolved into the "white man's candidate," voting patterns in the general election reveal that Barry's constituency lies in the poor, black areas—like those in southeast Washington—and not in the pampered white enclaves west of the District's Rock Creek Park.

Barry's background and inclinations leave him considerably more sensitive to the needs of that poor, black constituency and susceptible to its political pressures than any other candidate who could have run and won. But, unless those pressures are generated and maintained, Barry, seeking to pre-empt future challenges from within the Democratic Party, will inevitably be drawn tighter into the circle of commercial and property interests.

Those groups, by virtue of their position and economic clout, are already assured of the opportunity to whisper into one of the mayor's ears. The question is whether D.C.'s underclass and its spokespersons will insist upon the other. By underplaying the significance of the Barry victory they risk dulling the expectation of change—itsself a potent political force. A holier-than-thou approach on the part of the political left and neighborhood interests may, in other words, generate a defeat by default.

Serious consideration of the Barry victory, finally, provides insights of relevance beyond the local political scene. Racial attitudes are a factor in the failure of analysts to draw this into a national perspective. I am speaking here of the subtle stereotyping that continues to animate the

analyses of sincere, and genuinely non-racist, liberal and left-of-liberal Americans. These stereotypes, germinated in the '60s, falsely presume that American blacks are, by their very nature, committed to a broad platform of left-of-center causes.

The Barry victory can be ho-hummed aside only if one takes it for granted that all black inner-city dwellers are at heart garbed in militant sentiments and dress. This is not the case. A large number of D.C. blacks are middle class, church-going Americans of political coloration quite similar to that of the legions of white Americans believed to be marching today to the tune of a "new right."

They may vote Democratic and swear allegiance to the civil rights movement, but they also may be strongly anti-marijuana, pro law and order, anti-tax, and opposed to homosexuals' rights. Most are neither particularly class-conscious nor sensitive to the persistent impact of the unchecked market upon the quality and security of their lives.

The victories of liberal candidates such as Stewart in Alabama, Levin in Michigan, and Tsongas in Massachusetts have been portrayed as aberrations—small fish swimming against a conservative, anti-tax and anti-social welfare stream. Such a pat dismissal is of dubious worth, and the addition of the Barry victory to this list undercuts that interpretation further.

If any thread of consistency is to be woven through the patchwork pattern that November 7th produced it is one having to do with voter alienation and insistence on change rather than one of a conservative rebirth. A general readiness to experiment, as well as a general frustration, are evident. The ideological channel into which these sentiments will be directed remains, for the moment, undetermined.

Jeff Henig is professor of political science at George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

Capitalism and the work ethic

INDUSTRIALIZATION AND THE AMERICAN LABOR MOVEMENT, 1850-1900

By Irwin Yellowitz
Kennikat Press, Port Washington, N.Y.,
1976, \$12.50

THE WORK ETHIC IN INDUSTRIAL AMERICA, 1850-1920

By Daniel T. Rodgers
University of Chicago Press, Chicago,
1978, \$15.00

By James B. Gilbert

The social and political impact of modern industrial work was a great question mark that hung over American society at the turn of the 19th century. In this period of reflection and reformation, work was a disruptive factor for two reasons: The transformation of human labor lay behind many of the swift economic changes of the era, yet pre-industrial myths about work were woven into the texture of practically every contemporary social theory of note.

While this situation has changed somewhat, our distance from the thoughts and decisions of that generation of reformers and activists is not as great as we might imagine. The public rediscovery that work is unfulfilling and demeaning has seemed to move in tandem with most important reform ideas since World War II. That work is alienating seems to be part of almost any modern economic and social critique of American society.

The changing conditions of work have an importance we should not underestimate. To puzzle out its intricacies is to explore the very nature of the relations inherent in industrial capitalism. To examine its effects upon workers, even to look at the work ethic through the historian's eye, is to touch some of the deepest sources of class feeling in America. But one complication should be noticed: work as a human experience may have little to do with what we call the "work ethic." In fact, the degrading reality of the one and the ethical and social promises of the other have clashed since the beginning of industrialization. In his early writing on the subject, Marx defined this clash as a form of alienation, a physical and psychological appropriation of goods and status from workers. While Marx was working out his radical vision of industrial labor and its consequences, American observers, nursed on Calvinism and weaned on a craft and agrarian society, had developed a version of the work ethic that played a crucial ideological role in the period of capitalist take-off. It provided, first of all, an ethical justification for the immiseration of work by defining all labor, even the most menial, as God's work.

This ascetic notion corresponded well with the poverty of social reality and turned exploitation into a positive and soul-felt virtue. The work ethic also explained social hierarchy by promising success as a reward for hard work. Those who rose in society, so this argument went, were both virtuous and clever. A more abstract version of this definition of work was imbedded in theories of middle class individualism that defined the personality as self-made.

Workplace reality.

The problem with such a comprehensive theory was that it did not fit the reality of the late 19th century, neither for worker, nor for middle class people caught increasingly in white collar versions of proletarian life.

Laborers worked as hard as ever, yet success, defined as getting out of the factory, eluded them. Middle class intellectuals at the same time bitterly attacked the disappearance of individualism and worried about social hierarchy and widening class distinctions. Too important a theory to relinquish, the work ethic was closely examined in this period as a kind

of ideal with which to criticize the reality of the factory system.

Although, in public at least, this was largely a middle class affair, the discussion of work prior to 1900 was also joined by unions and laborers. Irwin Yellowitz's interesting book documents one portion of this discussion. His major point is indisputable: the conditions of employment changed rapidly after 1860. Workers reacted in a variety of ways to the intensification of exploitation, but the author is interested in one primary impulse which he finds voiced in labor union efforts to assert control over the workplace.

With the increased division of labor stimulated by mechanization, unions such as the stonecutters, tobacco workers, and carpenters tried to resist the effects of technological innovations. Half-heartedly, they sometimes even opposed the introduction of new machinery into factories, or other management reorganizations that changed skills and introduced uncertainty or part-time employment. The futility of holding out against modernization, however, was almost always obvious, and unions usually turned to more peripheral issues as a means of retaining skill levels and favorable work environments.

As Yellowitz notes, this meant that unions supported the eight-hour day (to spread work around) and tried to assert control over apprenticeship to limit entry in selected trades. They also opposed immigration, arguing that foreign workers always undercut American wage earners and tempted owners to introduce economies of skill and scale. Finally, unions opposed child labor and woman's labor on the grounds that both undercut the wages of skilled males.

Industrial crack-up.

While there are additional reasons for such union positions on child labor and immigration, for example, Yellowitz's reading of the dilemma of workers is a persuasive one. Unable to control the workplace, they could either try to prevent the application of new machinery (which was a fruitless task) or they could try to eliminate competitive labor sources. Although only hinted at, this suggests that many of the social reforms of the late 19th century concerning working conditions and supported by unions were issues of class.

From the middle class viewpoint, the expectations of work encoded in the work ethic seemed just as seriously compromised by industrialism. Dan Rodgers' account of the work ethic in industrial America provides a good description of an important turn taken in the discussion of work after the Civil War. He finds two ideals held in tension in the 19th century: one, that work must be creative and was a kind of moral duty; the other that work was productive and founded on delayed gratification and asceticism.

When plunged into the open hearth of the industrial revolution these associated ideas cracked apart. The moral and creative side of the work ethic became increasingly abstract, he argues, and attached itself vainly to political and social disputes where it caused more confusion than enlightenment. The other side of the work ethic was denatured, even reversed, when asceticism gave way to the increasing popularity of leisure and self-indulgence, setting the stage for a consumer society.

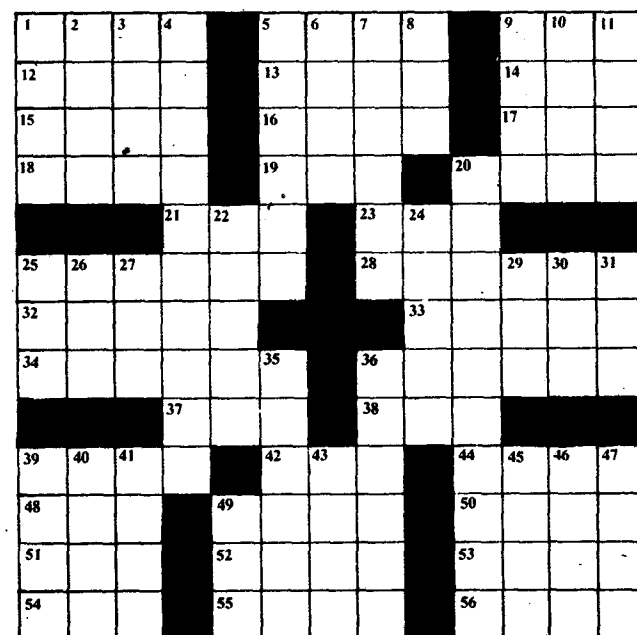
Beyond these two fascinating discussions of work and the work ethic at the turn of the century, there were at least two other key reactions to changes in the work ethic. The first, which fed into management reorganization and revitalization, declared that even though industrial work might be alienating, workers could be compensated for the loss by a variety of schemes, in education, planned leisure, sports, or through one of a thousand plans to make work appear to be more pleasing. The other approach was muted and still



Wives of striking Ohio coal miners, in late 19th century, thumping pans at a "black-leg" (scab) trying to take strikers' jobs.

remains to be explored by American society. This was the radical, class conscious attitude that the only logical response to alienated work was for laborers to capture complete control over the workshop. While this solution suggested itself to socialists and a few middle class intellectuals, by the end of the first World War, it was

largely a response left out in the cold. ■ James B. Gilbert is professor of American history at the University of Maryland. He is the author of *Designing the Industrial State* and, most recently, *Work Without Salvation*, a study in changing concepts of the work ethic in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.



San Juan & San Jose

By Jay Shepherd

ACROSS

- 1 Roman general: _____ Antony
- 5 Thick soft mass
- 9 Loiter
- 12 Medley
- 13 Former philanthropist: _____ Kahn
- 14 Actress _____ Rehan
- 15 Large wading bird
- 16 Uncommon
- 17 Hit (slang)
- 18 Endure
- 19 Article
- 20 Funeral _____
- 21 Biblical name
- 23 Flightless bird
- 25 Portuguese navigator
- 28 Bound
- 32 "_____ in Paris"
- 33 Buzz
- 34 Acts in opposition
- 36 Heavy political backer
- 37 Request
- 38 Recreation org. (Mil.)
- 39 Baseball's Musial
- 42 Incumbents

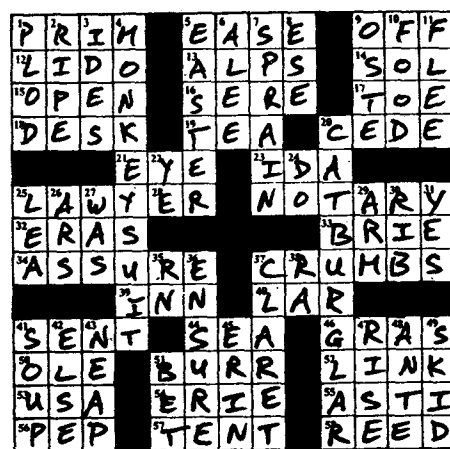
- 44 Gown
- 48 Sing with closed lips
- 49 Health resorts
- 50 "The Terrible"
- 51 Single unit
- 52 Church part
- 53 Program of events
- 54 Cooking utensil

- 55 Pair
- 56 Auto creator

DOWN

- 1 Drudge
- 2 Troubadour song
- 3 Social reformer: Jacob _____
- 4 Certain Central American
- 5 Subject to death
- 6 Where Provo is
- 7 "Sesame _____"
- 8 Garden tool
- 10 Indolent
- 11 Stare open-mouthed
- 20 Where Ponce is
- 22 Epsom _____
- 24 Early-warning satellite
- 24 Auto
- 26 Chimpanzee, for one
- 27 Woman's undergarment
- 29 Disney dwarf
- 30 Spenserian heroine
- 31 Fondle
- 35 Boy's given name
- 36 Bothered -
- 39 Do marketing
- 40 Popular fish
- 41 Biblical word
- 43 Space agcy.
- 45 Egg-shaped
- 46 Poet
- 47 Concludes
- 49 Mournful

Answer to last week's puzzle



LIFE IN THE U.S.

SPORTS

Duke basketball: the men prosper, the women suffer

By Barry Jacobs

DURHAM, N.C.

A HANDMADE SIGN ON THE wall in Debbie Leonard's cramped office in Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium explains the smile on her face. "Nothing great," it says, "is ever achieved without enthusiasm."

Leonard, in her second year as head coach of Duke's women's basketball team, is nothing if not enthusiastic. Yet, as she readily points out, all the spirit in the world won't help you in big-time college athletics unless it's backed up with money.

Title IX of the federal Educational Amendments Act of 1972 mandated that schools receiving federal funds provide equal opportunity in athletics for both men and women. But the deadline for full compliance—July 21, 1978—came and went without much notice. In the absence of definitive guidelines or direction by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the agency charged with enforcing Title IX, the nation's colleges and universities set their own pace toward equality, and were free to define "equality" itself.

As a result, all-too-familiar men's standards were applied to upgrading women's programs. Basketball, one women's sport with the potential to produce revenue, received the most attention.

Some schools began pouring funds into their women's basketball programs as soon as the impact of Title IX became clear, to get the jump on other schools in exploiting the market. Many of the small colleges that ruled the women's basketball roost were shouldered aside by free-spending major colleges like North Carolina, UCLA, and Maryland.

At North Carolina State, an early financial commitment to women's basketball brought impressive results. Boasting 12 scholarship players (the maximum allowed under women's rules), a full-time coaching staff and a large budget for recruiting and travel, State was ranked in the Top Ten the past two years and is right up there again this season. It is not uncommon for the Lady Wolfpack to draw 4,000 fans to home games. They have their own pep band and cheerleaders and their own fundraising wing of the school's alumni booster organization.

So when State travels the 25 miles to Duke, a longtime rival on the men's level in the Atlantic Coast Conference, it's like stepping back in time.

The Duke women have no cheerleaders, no pep band. They're lucky to draw 100 fans to their 8,564-capacity home arena, in part because Durham's major newspaper doesn't cover their games.

Men with money.

According to coach Debbie Leonard, the Duke women make do on under \$20,000, "enough to just get by." The basketball team travels to away games in vans with U-Haul trailers attached. With enough money last year for four partial scholarships, three went to players Leonard conceded "couldn't have played on many high school teams." No wonder Duke posted a 1-19 record last season in its first stab at Division I women's basketball, losing to Maryland 103-39 and to North Carolina State 125-43.

Women's coach Debby Leonard gets by with \$20,000, while Bill Foster has \$500,000 to play with.

Meanwhile Duke's men's squad, with a budget of approximately \$500,000, was the toast of college basketball last year, rising from four consecutive last-place finishes in the Atlantic Coast Conference to a 27-7 record and a shot at the NCAA championship against Kentucky. While Leonard was getting an ulcer, her male counterpart, Bill Foster, was being acclaimed coach of the year.

Foster, a perceptive man whose interests extend far beyond the basketball court, is well aware of the gap between men's and women's basketball at Duke. He has tried to help Leonard, providing advice, equipment, and joint scheduling opportunities that enable the women to share the larger crowds and jet travel.

"She [Leonard] just has to hang in there," he said, "keep working. That's how she can improve her program—not getting impatient, and building. It's like building a house. You don't do it all at once; you do it room by room."

Foster, a past president of the National Association of Basketball Coaches (men's), questions whether women are wise to pursue big-time athletic programs. "Unfortunately, they're taking the thing and heading it in our direction," he said. Critics contend Foster worries about competition with the women for Duke's athletic dollars somewhere down the road. But the concern in his voice was genuine when he said of women's basketball, "Before, it was fun to play. Now it's fun to win. I'm not sure that's the best idea."

HEW's Califano calls for equality with exceptions

Until HEW Secretary Joseph Califano recently announced proposals for equalizing financial support for male and female athletes, the American collegiate sports establishment wondered whether the government would mandate equal expenditures according to the number of men and women engaged in athletics, as most women hoped, or would recognize the status quo and be "sensible" in applying Title IX.

The men need not have worried. Califano said that intercollegiate football probably merited an exception. So, too, apparently, will intercollegiate basketball. The exceptions, Califano explained, were based on "sex-neutral" factors such as the level of competition in a sport and costs peculiar to that sport. Thus football earned an exemption because, with 90 players to equip and care for, and a pack of coaches to train them, it obviously entails exceptional expense. And basketball probably merited a dispensation because most major college teams play national schedules.

Califano accomplished, then, just what the men's National Collegiate Ath-

letic Association (NCAA) has been lobbying for ever since Title IX was enacted in 1972—that major "revenue-producing" sports be measured by one standard while other sports stand up to an entirely different one. At schools where sports other than football and basketball are considered major sports and are played on a national level, the new guidelines merely muddy the issue.

At universities like Duke, where the athletic department already provides equal funding proportional to the number of men and women in nonrevenue sports, no changes are required. But what of programs like women's basketball that have the potential for growth? If a team schedules national opponents, does it move up to the same category as men's football and basketball? Will that then require equal funding for the women, or will it earn them another amorphous "exemption"? And if nationally-oriented women's teams must be given equal funding, will that encourage some schools purposely to stifle the development of some women's sports?

The confusion is far from over. —B.J.



Duke coach Debbie Leonard recruits without money; player Tara McCarthy (insert) practices late at night, after the men are gone.

Neither is 26-year-old Debbie Leonard, who knows all about playing sports for the sheer enjoyment of it, having lettered in field hockey, basketball, and softball at High Point College. But she is determined to join the party. "Women's basketball is here," she insisted. "You either take advantage of the situation or not. Grant scholarships and take a stand, or play just to have fun."

Most of the emerging women's basketball powers are state institutions. Private universities like Duke are hard-pressed to come up with comparable funding even when they try, a fact Leonard reluctant-

ly accepts. "I don't think it would do me much good to file a Title IX suit," she admitted. Not that she's willing to meekly swallow poverty and defeat. "I think the athletic department has to take a stand and say, 'This is what we want for women athletes at Duke University.'"

Idle talk.

Duke athletic director Tom Butters explains that the needs of the school's traditional prestige sports—men's basketball and especially football—take precedence over funding women's basketball or anything else. Still, he declared, "I believe in quality programs, both men's and women's." He said Duke is implementing a five-year plan to bring its women's program up to par with those at other schools.

If so, it's taking its time about it. Leonard's budget isn't appreciably different this year from last. "I have to pat myself on the back," smiled Leonard. "I did a pretty good job of recruiting without money." Better than pretty good when Duke's prohibitive \$6,000 annual cost and tough academics are taken into account.

But getting quality players to come to Duke is only part of the battle. They still have to practice, to work at becoming a team, a task made more difficult because Duke's athletic facilities are so limited. Until the women's volleyball season ended in mid-November, Leonard's squad started practice at 8:15 each night after first Foster's team, and then the other women, were through. Her players didn't get out of the locker room until 10:30; Leonard was at work past 11 p.m. "I've got a bunch of zombies walking around here as basketball players," she observed, adding, "but that's just the way it's going to have to be."

Debbie Leonard is confident that with enough money, promotion, and press coverage, she can make women's basketball work at Duke. "I'm going to try to build a program here if they'll support me," she pledged. "Give me the kids and I can build a winning team. If I can't produce, I'll leave."

ART & ENTERTAINMENT

FILM BUSINESS

Superman is a book, game, uh, shirt, uh...

By Pat Aufderheide

Superman, as those Warner Brothers advertisements have so delicately been pointing out to you, is a movie.

It's also a TV show, or actually a series of Warner Television documentaries on the making of *Superman*. And a soundtrack album and two singles on Warner Brothers records. And books—eight *Superman* related titles, by Warner Books. And a pinball game, by the Warner subsidiary Atari. And a T-shirt, exhibited by the Warner-owned New York Cosmos soccer team.

Oh, and a comic book. Remember the comic book? Warner bought its publishers, DC Comics, ten years ago.

Superman is the latest and most sophisticated example of broad-based movie marketing. (Kenneth Turan reports *Superman's* supersell in December *American Film*.) In the age of the entertainment conglomerate, the selling of the same notion in many forms is displaying ever stronger powers to seduce consumers away from their entertainment dollars. People are increasing their purchase of new items, and also paying top amounts and going in record numbers to movies. There are fewer movies around than there used to be, but they're a bigger business than ever before. And to sell themselves so many ways, the super-movies increasingly depend on familiar forms and images, leaving the risks to the independents.

Supermarketing techniques range from simple product tie-ins for a movie, to making a movie as the trailer for other products. At every stage it's more than advertisement; the saleable products multiply. You can play it a number of ways.

For instance, you, a United Artists executive, arrange with Cannon Mills to produce *Lord of the Rings* drapes, linens and bedspreads. Or you, *Star Wars* promoter, sell the right to use *Star Wars* images to fast food companies and the Kenner Corp. Or you, the executive in charge of Barbara Streisand's or Kiss' or Bette Midler's new projects arrange a movie, perhaps by another arm of your organization. The movie's soundtrack will become the new album.

Oil, hotels, and movies.

Movies haven't been just movies for some decades now. These days Gulf and Western owns Paramount, the Transamerica Corporation owns United Artists, MGM is part of a Las Vegas-based real estate corporation, MCA corporation owns Universal, and Warner Communications is a synoptic picture of entertainment and communications empire-building in America.

It can become a chicken-and-egg question to decide whether

products are selling the movies or movies are selling the products. The products can finance a picture. *The Buddy Holly Story*, Mitch Tuchman reports in *Film Comment*, was partly financed by sale of the soundtrack album, script novelization, and marketing rights to T-shirts, posters and guitar picks. *T.G.I.F.*, *Grease*, *Saturday Night Fever*, and *American Hot Wax* all serve as record commercials, whatever their quality as movies. (*American Hot Wax* was a grainy but energetic and good humored film, while watching *T.G.I.F.* was like having honey poured into the wrinkles in your grey matter.)

RSO (the Robert Stigwood Organization), proud supersalesman father of *Saturday Night Fever* (largest selling record album of all time, with over 30 million world-wide sales), *Grease* (close behind), and *Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* (runt of the litter, but overseas sales are just starting), is pastmaster of film and record deal. Polygram B.V. Records bankrolls RSO, which has creative autonomy.

RSO has so dazzled the marketing world that it became headline news in *Advertising Age* when RSO decided not to release the single *Moment by Moment* simultaneously with the Universal-distributed movie starring Lily Tomlin and John Travolta.

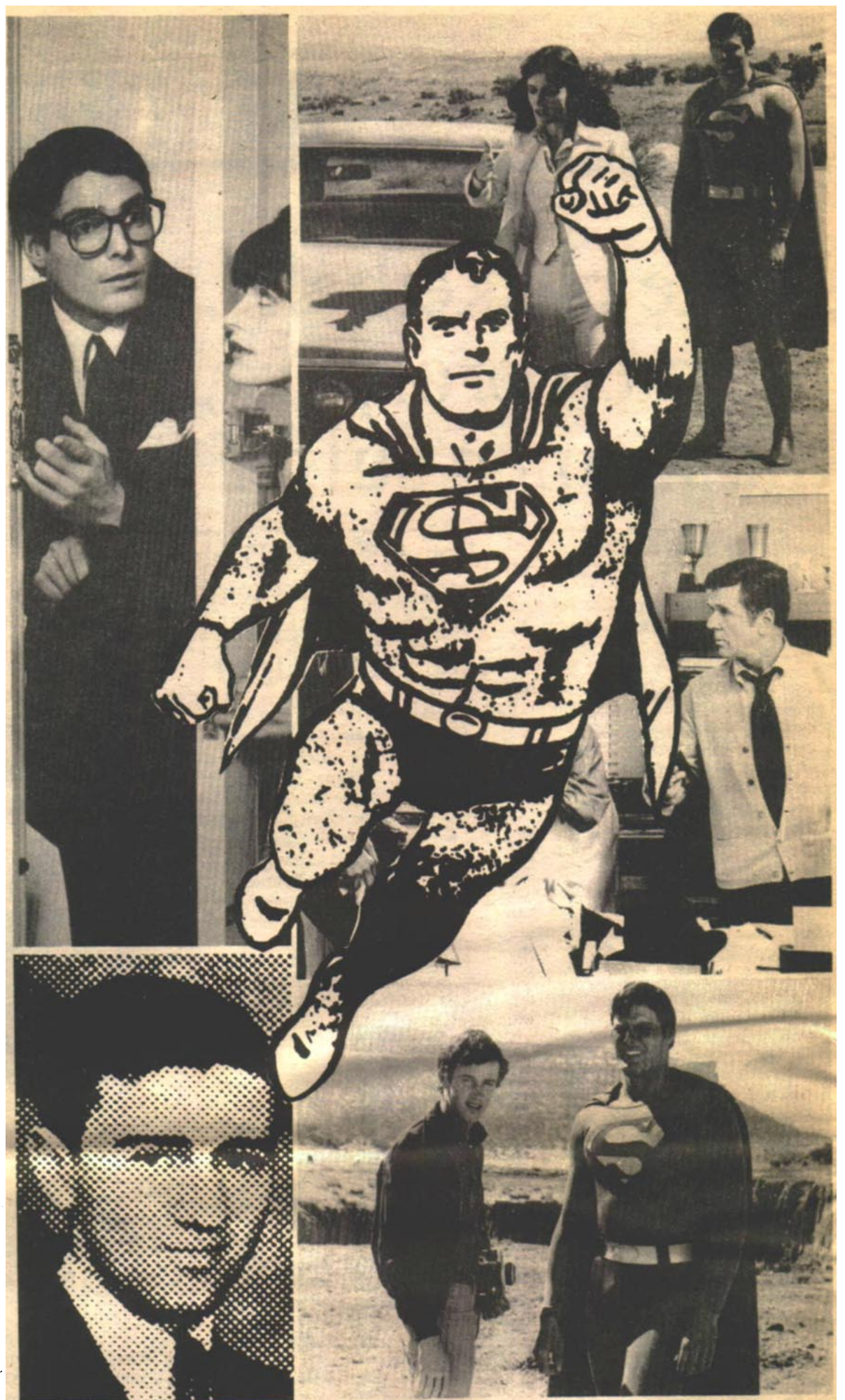
"We expect the film to generate the demand for the record this time," said one of their executives demurely. "This is a whole new thing for us." The ploy may, however, simply be RSO's way of saying they've already cleared their profit on the slae of distribution rights to Universal, and that they expect little interest in this very little, maudlin film.

A movie can become a mini-industry, as happened with *Star Wars*. The week after *Star Wars* became a surprise hit, sudden jumps in popcorn and theater candy stocks were traced to its success. The confident selling of *Superman*, irrespective of the film's quality, is firmly based on *Star Wars'* precedent, with the advantage that *Superman* has had time to prepare the field before release. It wasn't until a week after the film was released, after all, that George Lucas realized he had created a lifetime's worth of business interests.

Lines at the box office.

It would be easy to see movies as a simple tool to promote other products—especially records, the key to the "entertainment complex," and the most lucrative single legal entertainment product around. But it would be too easy.

People are going like never before, and paying like never before to go to the movies. Box office receipts have more than doubled between 1973 and 1978, in a period when the cost of living rose



Clockwise from top left: Clark loves Lois; Lois loves Superman; editor Perry White questions his reporters; cub photographer Jimmy Olson stands with his hero; high school editor Jerry Siegel made them all up.

sharply as well. This year Americans left (according to *Variety*) almost \$3 billion at the box office. And the executives don't seriously start to count the profits till they send the movies overseas, where almost all the take can be profits, often untaxed or taxed at a superlow rate.

Overseas rentals have boomed, in fact doubled, in the last few years. The rewards are terrific. The distribution fee 20th-Century Fox charged for *Star Wars* last year could pay for the entire world-wide sales operations of the corporation for three years, and still leave over \$70 million for the company. And *Star Wars*, don't forget, cost \$9 million to make.

The results are clear in the latest figures for the central eight entertainment conglomerates: the summer's net income was up 32 percent, on revenues that are higher than last quarter by 20 percent. Although these profits come from diverse activities, film revenues were up for most of the eight as well.

Why this sudden rush to the box office?

The new broad-range marketing is part of the reason. For a few weeks it becomes more than

a movie. It's an event! It's a phenomenon! You can't miss it!

Paying the price.

This multi-product sell does make movie-going more popular. But it reduces the number of movies there are. American movie production has been declining for over a decade, down from 400 pictures a year to 150. And movies are increasingly polarized, between big splashy productions that soak up huge amounts of advertising and entertainment dollars and small independently-made films squeezing by on black-and-white budgets.

When movies are part of an "entertainment package," there's no reason why they have to be the central part of it. They can be the trailer for the main event, most often that big-selling album. No one needs to care about the quality of the film as a film. When Frank Pierson took the hot-potato job of director and scriptwriter for the latest version of *A Star Is Born*, a project foundering on Barbara Streisand's temperamental reputation, a Warner executive took him aside. Warner had bought rights to *A Star Is Born* for Streisand, looking for a soundtrack album to fulfill an

outstanding commitment to the singer.

"It would be nice if the picture was good," he explained, "but the bottom line is to get her to the floor. Shoot her singing six numbers and we'll make \$60 million."

Finally, this broad range marketing increases the likelihood of conservative themes in the movies that succeed. After all, not every subject will sell broadly. It's hard to pull a catchy, hummable message out of, say, *Taxi Driver* or *Bread and Chocolate* or *Girlfriends*. You can do it, though, if you have an image that's already familiar to people. This is known as being pre-sold, and is the reason why Warners' big bucks go behind *Superman*, a word everyone knows already. You can also do it with sensations that thrill but don't threaten to touch too closely or to force people to reflect.

Comic book heroes are perfect. And, *Variety* tells us in front page headlines, comic book heroes are the coming wave for movies. The Mattel corporation will be mighty pleased, I imagine. It'll be great for the poster industry. Even popcorn vendors will be pleased. And if you didn't like the movie, well, maybe you'll like the book.

FILM

Look up, it's Superdemocrat!

By Pat Aufderheide

After all that hype, you're willing to stand in line to see *Superman*, but with your sneer handy. In no time, though, you're won over. It's not good, but it is fun, funny, and above all safe. This movie will not embarrass you in front of your kid or your mother-in-law.

It may embarrass you just a touch later on, because in retrospect the film—made pretty much by committee and co-ordinated by Richard (The Omen) Donner—is technically ordinary. It's archconservative in its storytelling style; the technical effects are pretty but not innovative; no real suspense pitches you into the popcorn; and Superman flies around with his hands clenched, obviously holding on to something. But somehow the movie makes you feel reassured and nostalgic for a world that never was.

The story is a neatly framed comic book episode. Superman's father (Marlon Brando) sends him to Earth when Krypton blows up, the boy (Christopher Reeve) comes to live with Ma and Pa Kent (Phyllis Baxter, Glenn Ford) and then goes to work as newspaperman Clark Kent. Superman rescues Lois Lane (Margot Kidder) from falling off a tall building, then goes on to stop diabolical Lex Luthor (Gene Hackman) from dropping western California into the ocean.

Kid's story, adult chuckle.

A kid's story, right? Yeah, but

we were mostly adults in the audience when I went, cheering on the good guys. Superman works both for kids and adults, because it tells a kid's story with an adult chuckle. The script (Mario Puzo had a heavy hand in it) carefully avoids any whiff of city sophistication about the mom-flag-apple pie elements of the legend, but it pokes fun at itself in a different way—with body humor, broad jokes and puns: Perry White caps a series of questions about the superhero, "And where did he get that suit?" Lex Luthor claims disarmingly, "We all have our faults—mine's in California." The movie's tone is like that of a sincere, honest guy who can take a well-meant joke.

But the real comfort in watching this movie antedates the movie version and lies in the Superman legend, drawn preternaturally well by two Jewish high school boys in Cleveland as Hitler came to power, and made popular on the eve of World War II. (See sidebar.)

The Superman story casts an eternal protective cloak over our daily arrangements. *Superman* seems like a partial fantasy, about a nice guy with special powers in a slightly neater version of our small towns and cities. But it's a fantasy of whole cloth, featuring that all-American dream, a world without history.

The movie brings this out at least as clearly as any comic book ever did, putting "the American Way" outside history and human error, comforting us with abso-

lutes. It does so with, among other things, the absolutely good character of Superman, the absolutely bad character of his enemies, and even with his eternally incomplete love life.

Superdemocrat.

Superman is a superdemocrat. He explains early on to Lois, "I'm here to fight for truth, justice and the American Way," and he leaves us at the end carolling, "We're all part of the same team!" But he's a superdemocrat by religion, not by choice. The movie establishes this from the start, with Superman's own dad.

We see him abide by a wrong council decision (to stay on Krypton), dying rather than flouting majority rule. Brando takes on the heavy mantle of democratic responsibility with unparalleled pomposity; but he's even better when he poses as God the Father, years later when his son is watching a recording of him. The father claims that because of human beings' capacity for growth, he has given them... (up music)...his only Son.

So the son of God comes to the *Daily Planet* both egalitarian and superior, employing his special powers to protect a system that denies special powers to particular people and groups. He sides with democracy because Dad said so. He draws no strength from the democratic process. There is no interaction—no, it's just give, give, give for Superman. He preserves "the American Way" in the sense of pickling it. He rescues us from the need to use the decision-making process he defends.

No social ills.

But then the kinds of decisions that need to get made with it are written out of the picture. All the action in Metropolis takes place between exotic bad guys and the superhero. Our well-ordered lives are disturbed only by the sick schemes of genius, or by natural disaster. Superman fights Evil, and rescues damsels and children from disaster, but he never has to fight anything endemic in society (nor, the movie promises, do we).

This works better in the comics, by the way, than it does in the movie. It's easy, with real people to look at, to begin to wonder why Lois is so special and just what Superman does about nations full of starving children or racial tension. Still, the movie manages to keep real life at a tolerable distance, in part because each film character gets only one gimmick, one identification. We never have to wonder if they would behave differently or what would happen in different combinations of characters. Everything is fixed, even the smiles.

Finally, Superman freezes time with the relationship between Clark, Lois and Superman. He loves her, she spurns him and loves Him, who spurns her. A tidy solution: endless love interest with no messy consequences. (What will happen in *Superman II*, already filmed, when Superman and Lois Lane actually make love?)

No wonder *Superman's* so much fun to watch. Besides the goofy effects and the thrill of staring at Christopher Reeve in stretchy underwear, we get a celebration of social harmony without the work and mess involved in social change.

A bird? A plane? No, a nice boy from Cleveland

Superman is from Krypton, right? Wrong. It's Cleveland.

And he's Jewish. At least his creators, high school chums Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster are.

Back in the hard times of the early '30s, Siegel and Shuster were still in high school. Siegel was putting out the school's weekly *Glenville Torch*. Shuster was learning how to draw. Their friend, mild-mannered Wilson Hirschfeld, would practice his newspaper style in the *Torch* office, and lovely but "stuck-up" Lois Amster stayed on the edge of the writer's group.

In Germany, Adolf Hitler was learning to wow the crowds.

Later, Siegel told the *Saturday Evening Post* that the story of Superman came to him in a blinding flash as he lay sleepless on a warm night in 1932. (This description fit with Siegel's prose style, learned by devouring Edgar Rice Burroughs, gothic chillers, and comics like Buck Rogers.) Then he turned to Shuster to draw the Man of Steel. It took six years for a publisher to give the strip a trial run. But by 1940 Superman was flying over radiowaves, and a year later there were more than a dozen imitations.

Like other comic heroes of the day, Superman went to war, battling Nazis on land and in the air. Years earlier, the *Glenville Torch* had cited, under the head "Impossible to See," "Jerry Siegel and Adolf Hitler indulging in a wild game of pin-ochle."

Equally impossible would be Super money for Siegel and



Siegel and Shuster's original Superman.

Shuster. After years of rejections, the two had signed away their publication rights for \$130 in 1938. After Superman became a hit, publisher Harry Donenfeld agreed to let them do a regular strip for the McClure Syndicate for 50 percent of the net if they would work exclusively for Donenfeld for the next ten years at \$35 per page. Or they could be replaced.

From 1940 to 1941, Superman, Inc., made about \$1.5 million in comic sales as well as Superman toys and other products. Siegel and Shuster split about \$150,000 between themselves and a staff of five artists working in a one-room office in Cleveland. After their contract with Donenfeld ran out in 1948, they obtained \$100,000 in a legal settlement and were fired.

This story was based on an article by Dennis Dooley in *Cleveland Magazine*.

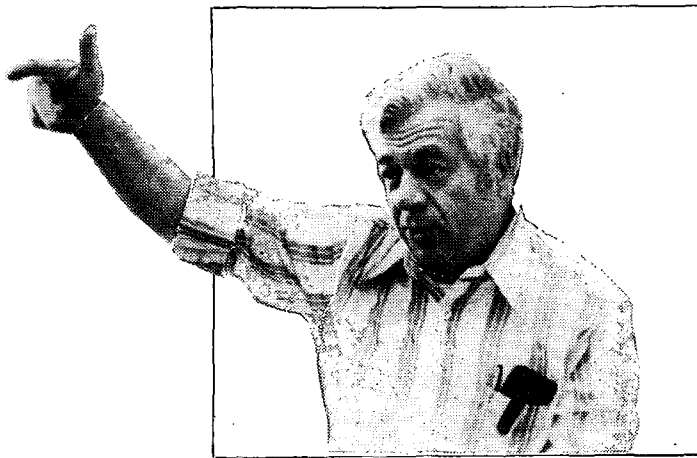
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Short Notice



Tanya Tucker: inconsistent image

Records

BABYLON BY BUS

Bob Marley & the Wailers
(Island Records)

A live album usually means a performer is biding his or her time, having trouble writing new material, or meeting the record company's demands for "product." But this two-record set might be worth it for Marley fans. Recorded during last year's European tour, Marley and the Wailers sound terrific as they do songs spanning the '70s. After the disappointment of *Kaya*, his last studio album, it's a pleasure hearing Marley sound as if he means it. **bd**

PRONTO MONTA

Kate and Anna McGarrigle
(Warner Bros.)

An album with all the wit and lyricism we've come to expect from these two sisters out of Quebec. It's all gorgeous and impeccable—particularly the title cut, a French folk song—but surprisingly unaffected. **bd**

MOVE IT ON OVER

George Thorogood and the Destroyers (Rounder Records)
Ideal wake-up music, assuming you don't have landlord or neighbor troubles. Fine "Rockin' Rhythm'n'Blues," even better than his debut album last year. Now if only George could write his own stuff... **bd**

SHAKEDOWN STREET

Grateful Dead (Arista Records)

Of interest to zealous Dead Heads but I'm not sure who else. The Dead are erratic. Whenever Jerry Garcia is singing or playing guitar they have a distinctive, often joyful sound. But when either Bob Weir or Donna Godchaux are up front, they turn into a run-of-the-mill rock band. Spotty song-writing also contributes to this being a very mixed album. **bd**

TNT

Tanya Tucker (MCA)

Tanya Tucker, the country prodigy who hit big at age 13 with "Delta Dawn," is now 20. On this album for the cross-over market sex is the ticket. On the cover Tanya straddles a microphone cord. On the inside, Tanya poses in an outfit that seems spray-painted on her. The record itself is inconsistent: her "Not Fade Away" and "Angel from Montgomery" are great; her "Heartbreak Hotel" and "Brown-Eyed Handsome Man" are not quite as good, and the ballads are undistinguished. Maybe next time she won't need to dress up her music so cheaply. **cw**

HOW I SPENT MY VACATION

Mitch Ryder (Seeds & Stems)

What he did in six years of inactivity goes unanswered on this, his first recording since 1972. Only the eight-minute "Poster" addresses the decline of his first career. Apart from forays into jazz, this LP rocks in the Motor City tradition. With a new band and a matured voice that befits the drama of the lyrics, the "Sock

It To Me" man has produced an album far more satisfying and less complacent than those by many of rock's young turks. **cb**

AMERICAN STRANGER

Happy Traum (Kicking Mule)

Solid folk-with-old-timey-and-bluegrass influence record by an old favorite. Traum gives a contemporary feeling to the title cut (aka "The Plains of Amerikee") and blends into a lively version of "The Eighth of January" (aka "The Battle of New Orleans"). With John Sebastian on harmonica, he gives new life to Leadbelly's traditional "When I Was A Cowboy," a bit of a tribute to that great black singer. And in a surprisingly well done interpretation of Dylan's "Buckets of Rain," Traum proves that a lively upbeat song can have a mellow sound without being obnoxious. This album has to be listened to more than once to be appreciated. **es**

ICE PICKIN'

Albert Collins (Alligator)

This Houston-cum-L.A. blues guitarist is given his best shot in nearly a decade. Collins' near-legendary "Cool Sound" is the product of short, declarative electric guitar blasts, flanked by a funky ensemble that includes Chicago saxophonist A.C. Reed. Material ranges from satirical and topical ("Master Charge") to dramatic and domestic ("Conversation With Collins"). With



Albert Collins: "Cool Sound"

artists like Collins at the helm, blues is assured its say in the '80s. **cb**

AIR ABOVE MOUNTAINS (BUILDINGS WITHIN)

Cecil Taylor (Inner City)

More solo piano masterpieces from "the Ellington of the avant-garde," or the private musical exorcisms of personal demons? New listeners, unable to penetrate the multilayers of atonality and dissonance, might dismiss this record as the latter. But the intense and patient attention required is often rewarded. **dr**

CHARACTERS

John Abercrombie (ECM)

Beautiful impressionistic sketches from a deft and sensitive guitarist. Still within the "new cool" favored by ECM, Abercrombie avoids icy one-dimensionality through creative overdubbing of



Cecil Taylor: exorcising demons?

acoustic and electric guitar parts, adding painterly strokes of tonal color and warmth to his almost too fragile compositions. **dr**

EUROPEAN IMPRESSIONS

Larry Coryell (Arista-Novus)

Guitarist Coryell has gone completely acoustic lately but has not abandoned his machine-gun approach. His dexterous flash, powerful chords and sizzling single-note runs are sure to please guitar speed freaks, but this solo record lacks the discipline and diversity of Coryell's recent guitar duets with Philip Catherine. **dr**

THE LEE KONITZ QUINTET (Chiaroscuro)

This loose, free-wheeling session waxes from cool to hot as befits the leader's career (from bebop, through '50s cool to recent solo and duet experiments). Supported by a crisp and energetic rhythm section, Konitz is joined and

often challenged by fellow alto saxophonist Bob Mover in intricate harmonizing counterpoints and invigorating solo exchanges. **dr**

LOVE ON THE SUDAN

Billy Harper Quintet (Denon Jazz import)

Applying Coltrane-like "sheets of sound" solos to his own haunting modal compositions, Billy Harper stands at the cutting edge of reviving driving, rhythmic jazz known as "hard bop." His quintet recordings, as well as his regular work in the Max Roach Quartet show him the most original and formidable of the young post-Trane tenor players: That neither he nor Roach has a U.S. record contract is a disgrace. **dr**

MOZART SYMPHONIES

H. von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic (Deutsche Grammophon)

Prepare to celebrate Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 222nd birthday on January 27 with Herbert von Karajan and the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra. This richly boxed set of three records provides seven of Mozart's symphonies, Nos. 32, 35, 36 and 38-41, including the famous "Haffner," "Linz," "Prague" and "Jupiter" symphonies. This is one of the finest of the available Mozart sets. At its best, the music is magically airborne; lines float gently and gracefully, with both simplicity and inevitability. Karajan's minuet movements tend to be slow and proud (levity and humor are not this conductor's strong points), and, in contrast, his presto finales go like the wind, challenging the listener to keep abreast. Everything about these performances is absolutely assured, including the rather unfortunately grandiose opening of the D-Major "Haffner." **km**

BRUCKNER'S FOURTH SYMPHONY

Kurt Mazur and the Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra (Vanguard)

Few orchestras in the world can compete with the one from the legendary Gewandhaus, and Mazur's classically elegant interpretation makes Bruckner's Fourth Symphony, the "Romantic" (in its original version) sing with beauty.

Contributors: Bruce Dancis, Carlo Wolff, Cary Baker, Ed Schoenfeld, Derk Richardson, Karen Monson.

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by Alan Greene. Single copy 60¢. Subscription \$7.50 yearly, U.S.A. Jewish Currents, Dept. T, 22 East 17th St., N.Y.C. 10003. Pamphlet by Schappes "Irving Howe's 'The World of Our Fathers' A Critical Analysis," send 60¢. Special—A TEN YEAR HARVEST, Third Jewish Currents Reader, 1966-1976, 300 pp., paperback, \$3.75.

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CLASSIFIED RATES:
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There were probably more good to excellent rock albums in 1978 than at any other time in this decade, even though the year was not filled with startling new developments.

For the first time New Wave music began reaching a mass American audience, as was seen with the commercial successes of Patti Smith and Elvis Costello. And such ancients as the Rolling Stones, the Kinks, and the Who brought out strong albums, showing that they were neither too old nor "in the way," as had been charged by some of the young rock rebels.

1977's most popular groups—Fleetwood Mac and the Eagles—both abdicated, neither releasing a new album this year. In their place came an enterprising multi-media mogul, Robert Stigwood, who successfully packaged dubiously artistic sound-track albums of popular movies like *Saturday Night Fever*, *Grease*, and *Sergeant Pepper*.

In reggae music, the trend was toward greater sophistication in both production techniques and the addition of musical elements from rock, jazz, and soul. Roots reggae is still being played in Jamaica, but it isn't getting released in the U.S. As a result, *Two Sevens Clash* by Culture, perhaps the best reggae album I've heard all year, is available only as an import in this country.

Business was worse than usual from the consumer standpoint. At the end of the year list prices for some records reached an outrageous \$8.93, the second \$1.00 price rise in about a year. Fans were given the "opportunity" to plunk down as much as \$16.00 for colored records, featuring photographs or other art work instead of the ordinary black vinyl. Journalistic independence reached a new low when *Rolling Stone* magazine publisher Jann Wenner publicly chastised his own critics for telling the truth about a putrid Bob Dylan album and a mediocre Rolling Stones concert. Lastly, despite strong sales by peripheral punks like Elvis Costello, timid American record companies continued to be slow releasing albums and 45s by most British New Wave bands.

A few words about the critical criteria used for the following 1978 Ten-Best list. These, in no particular order, are my favorite rock and reggae albums, the ones I enjoy the most; they are not necessarily the most innovative records, or the ones featuring the greatest musicians. Some excellent bands have yet to capture the brilliance of their live performances on records—and they don't show up in the top ten. Imports were excluded, as were live albums made up largely of songs released in previous years.

Elvis Costello: his year to be pissed off and paid for it.



Bruce Dancis'

10 BEST 1978 ROCK N' REGGAE

Finally, I have had to invoke the *Patti Smith Rule* on occasion. The rule applies to generally excellent albums, where it isn't simply a matter of just *not playing* the record. The Smith rule calls for severe penalties against an album if it featured any song that was so excruciatingly awful that I had to get up to skip over the accursed track every time the record was playing. As a result, even "Because the Night" on Patti Smith's *Easter* can't make up for "Bab-e-logue."

Misfits

The Kinks

Arista

Wonderfully funny, challenging, and reflective music by one of the all-time great bands. Ray Davies has been a marvelously iconoclastic thinker for well over a decade, and this has never been clearer than on "A Rock'n'Roll Fantasy."

This Year's Model

Elvis Costello
Columbia

The combination of Costello's vengeful lyrics and a sparse instrumental backing with his punky Buddy Holly appearance and pissed-off demeanor created its own sub-genre—outcast rock. This is an angry album by perhaps the most lyrical New Wave rocker.

Haile I Hymn (Chapter 1)

1 Jah Man
Mango

An ironic mixture of very modern, rock-influenced reggae with a fervent, all-consuming, religious testament. 1 Jah Man's daring debut features four lengthy cuts, backed by some of Jamaica's finest musicians.

Road to Ruin

The Ramones

Sire

The best album to date by America's foremost New Wave



The Clash breaks into the second team.

band. The pace has been slowed down a bit, so it's a little more accessible than previous albums, but the Ramones never stray too far from a splendid minimalism.

Hearts of Stone

Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes

Epic

Stunning melodies, the best and most complementary horn section in rock since the Mar-Keys, and Southside Johnny Lyon's strong, clear voice make a near-perfect expression of pure rock and R&B.

Bloody Tourists

10 CC

Polydor

A British band so impeccably polished in its arrangements, harmonies, and production that it is often knocked as being "too commercial." What's wrong with being commercial, if you're good?

Some Girls

The Rolling Stones
Rolling Stones

As long as Mick Jagger is in the band, the Stones will probably flirt with decadence and sexism. As long as Keith Richards is around, they will more than likely be a great rock band.

Dire Straits

Dire Straits
Warner Bros.

Positive proof that blues-rock isn't solely in the hands of tasteless show-offs. Mark Knopfler's strong guitar work and brutally honest stories of urban life make this the year's finest debut album.

Bush Doctor

Peter Tosh

Rolling Stones

In a major departure for this original Wailer, Tosh successfully fuses calypso, rock, and Motown sounds to standout reggae. His songwriting seems more assured than previously, though his concerns are less political than before. Superb accompaniment is provided by reggae rhythm stalwarts Sly Dunbar and Robbie Shakespeare.

David Johansen

David Johansen

Blue Sky

A dynamic, hard rock album by the former lead singer of the New York Dolls. Johansen has always been a gifted vocalist; he now has consistently fine songs and instrumental backing as well.

BECAUSE OF THE HIGH level of rock music this year, the following honorable mention list is more than merely perfunctory. In most previous years during the '70s, almost any one of these albums could have made a Ten-Best list.

Give 'em Enough Rope

The Clash

Epic

More Songs About Buildings and Food
Talking Heads

Sire

Who Are You

The Who

MCA

Darkness on the Edge of Town

Bruce Springsteen

Columbia

Q: Are We Not Men?

A: We Are Devo

Devo

Warner Bros.

The Bride Stripped Bare

Bryan Ferry

Atlantic

Stranger in Town

Bob Seger and the Silver Bullet

Band

Capitol



Bob Seger: close but no cigar.

Heaven Tonight

Cheap Trick

Epic

Wavelength

Van Morrison

Warner Bros.

Lastly, here are a few awards for some of the worst albums of the year. Obvious losers aren't even considered—these are for albums that aimed high and hit bottom.

Sophomore slump award—*Return to Magenta*, Mink DeVille (Capitol).

Too much weed award—*Kaya*, Bob Marley and the Wailers (Island).

Most unnecessary comeback award—*Reunion*, Peter, Paul & Mary (Warner Bros.).

Garbage is garbage even if it comes out of his can award—*Street Legal*, Bob Dylan (Columbia).

CULTURE SHOCK

SO THERE

Dusan Makavejev, whose native Yugoslavia has censored his quixotic films, *WR: Mysteries of the Organism* and *Sweet Movie*, reported at a

Spanish film festival two weeks ago that Yugoslavia is "100 percent Marxist—50 percent Karl, 50 percent Groucho."

UH HUH

Head of the Italian

film firm producing *The Guyana Massacre* assured reporters last week, "You can be sure of one thing... we're not in it just for exploitation."

SO RELAX AND ENJOY IT



Esquire titled its December cover feature, "The Year of the Lusty Woman: It's All Right to be a Sex Object Again."

Santa Claus goes south with his Visa card



Tom Greenfelder

I can see them even now:

short men in foreign, wooly red suits and matching caps, mopping swarthy brows above the unfamiliar fluffy white substance that enveloped the lower half of their faces. To a child in Mexico in the late 1940s, they looked most peculiar.

As one of those children, I didn't know that the Santas foreshadowed a dramatic shift in Mexico's Christmas customs and heralded the beginnings of economic change. Upon their first appearances on the street, they simply presented an odd contrast to those around them—people dressed in the lightweight clothing typical of Mexico City's mild winter climate. Indeed, the Santas seemed more like strange novelties than the harbingers they, in fact, were.

Today, little is left of the Christmases of my childhood, but when I recently heard a reminiscence about Christmas as a religious holiday, I recalled the contrast the typical North American Christmas presented when it was first exported to Mexico.

The earliest Santa I remember was a mechanical giant that twirled on a metal

By Mercedes
Lynn de Uriarte

Three decades ago, Santa was a shocking sight. Now Mexico imports turkeys and pine trees for a gringo-style holiday.

disc, doubled over in laughter, one arm raised in greeting. The time was early December of 1947, and as Santa turned from side to side in the display window of Sears Roebuck in Mexico City, his recorded laughter bellowed through loudspeakers, terrifying the few children who had congregated. But as the days passed, the crowd at the window grew larger. Barefoot street vendors and uniformed *nanas* holding immaculate children, as well as *rebozo*-wrapped women and babies—all peered at the stranger who bobbed in the window. Bewilderment that day, exactly 30 years ago, knew no class barriers.

Posadas, not Santas.

For those of us who were Mexican, Santa held little significance at the time. We were waiting for the 15th of December when the first *posadas* would begin, ushering in the Christmas season.

A *posada*—it literally means “inn” in Spanish—celebrates the journey of Mary and Joseph. Everyone looked forward to *posadas*, even in the poorest neighborhoods where only the churches sponsored them.

These traditional Christmas parties get under way with the guests separating into two groups. One remains indoors and the other goes outside to reenact the couple's search for shelter. As the group outside sings its pleas for admission at each window, the one inside carols back its refusal. Finally, when the house has been circled, the groups meet again at the front door. Then the door is thrown open and a welcome is extended, whereupon the rest of the evening is passed in holiday merry-making. Traditionally, the party ends when the *pinata* is shattered by a blindfolded guest wielding a broomstick—an act that showers gifts far and wide.

Throughout the Christmases of my childhood, the focal point in every home was a prominently displayed nativity scene. Decorating the manger was such an important family activity that for weeks before, vendors walked along the streets selling Spanish moss to cover and line Jesus' resting place.

That was Christmas—mine, my parents', my grandparents', my great-grandparents'. It opened with ten days of celebration emphasizing the occasion's religious significance. The 25th itself began with midnight mass, followed by family gatherings where we consumed *noche buena* salad (a mixture of fruits and vegetables) and sweet *tamales* made with raisins.

Although some presents might be exchanged on the 25th, children looked forward to the big day—Jan. 6, *Día de los Reyes*, Kings' Day. As they had done for

several centuries, children scampered out of bed to find their shoes full of surprises and gifts from “the kings.”

For most of this century, *Día de los Reyes* has been kicked off the day before by the president's wife. Standing on a platform in a polo field near the presidential residence, the first lady distributes clothing along with small toys for children. I remember how lines would encircle the field the night before—thousands of *sarape*-clad men waiting with their wives and children as campfires flickered to the slap of hand-made tortillas.

Then on Kings' Day itself doorbells rang as poor children stood at the massive gates of elegant residences hoping to receive discarded toys that had been conveniently replaced in wealthy homes by new ones from generous “kings.”

Later that day, family and friends gathered to share a *rosca*, which was a large ring-shaped cake with a small porcelain replica of the Christ child baked inside. The person whose slice contained the replica was responsible for gathering the same group together later in the year for a party. As I recall, the holiday season ended as it began, with an emphasis on religion and a sense of community—and a touch of *noblesse oblige*.

Jelly-bellied foreigner.

Then, 31 years ago this month, a jelly-bellied foreigner with the incredible name of Santa Claus strode into that orchestrated reverence trailing the trappings of Christmas, North American style.

Naturally, Santa's first fans were North American expatriots who shared familiarity with Dasher and Dancer and other Christmas lore, including stockings hung by the chimney with care. Soon, however, Mexican merchants realized that Santa was so great for business that other Santas appeared.

For a good while, Sears held a clear edge on the market because along with Santa, the department store had introduced an equally important feature of the North American Christmas: easy credit. Other businessmen called it “crazy,” but Sears disproved their diagnosis by making a Christmas mint.

Since then, as the middle class has grown, other businesses have joyfully followed suit. A spokesman for Sears' international division maintains that the store has encountered fewer deadbeats in Mexico—thanks, no doubt, to the Hispanic code of honor than it has north of the border.

The ultimate in credit concepts was introduced in 1969 when Bancomer, the Mexican counterpart of BankAmericard, produced its blue, orange and white plastic charge card. By 1974, when I took my own children south to visit their grandparents for Christmas, billboards urged people to “use su Bancomer como dinero” (“use your Bancomer like money”).

Inspired by all the spending, businessmen began to import still other signposts of Christmas. Since 1950, imported U.S. turkeys have graced Mexican dinner tables and the demand for Christmas tree has become so great that the Mexican government, fearful for its forests, insisted that they too must be imported.

Hanging on many a front door are wreaths dusted with a white powder that represents a certain wet substance never seen by most Mexicans. “White Christmas” sung in translation by “El Bingo,” evokes scenes seldom experienced. Today, sociologists write scholarly articles analyzing the duality of Mexico—the sense of loss, the acculturation, the sense of something gained—and their theories spin like that first Santa in Sears' window.

As for me—well Christmas rituals in Mexico lost much of their enchantment when I was a teen-ager. Many years have passed since I put out my shoes for *Día de los Reyes*, but should my children ever feel like doing so, I trust they won't place a Visa card inside as advance payment. ■

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